

Jordan Times

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Iraqi opposition groups open conference

VIENNA (AP) — A Kurdish leader on Tuesday denied that autonomy for Kurds in Iraq would cause the country's breakup and called for unity among opponents seeking to oust President Saddam Hussein. "We are not for the partition of Iraq," said Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of Iraq's two main Kurdish groups. "We are for a democratic Iraq which can and must guarantee the rights and equality... of all Iraqi people." Kurdish demands for self-determination are among issues dividing Iraq's fractious opposition activists as they gather for a four-day conference, starting Wednesday, on how to topple President Saddam. With some key opposition figures threatening to stay away, it was far from certain that the Iraqi national congress could achieve its goal of "a practical plan to oust Saddam's regime" and replace it with a democracy. All of several dozen Iraqi opposition groups agree that President Saddam must go, but ethnic, religious and political differences have prevented agreement on what kind of government should follow. Some Shiite Muslims want an Islamic republic, possibly modelled on Iran, while liberals want a secular democratic state.

Iraq oil talks to resume in Vienna Friday

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. officials said Tuesday that talks with Iraq on a possible \$1.6 billion Iraqi oil sale will resume in Vienna on Friday. Chief U.N. spokesman François Giuliani told reporters that the negotiating teams would be headed by Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Pico and Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Abdul Amir Al Anbari. He declined to characterise the talks or predict that a final agreement would be reached to permit a one-time sale of oil. He said last week that the talks probably would resume Friday if there was any indication that they would be "fruitful." Iraq says that it needs to sell oil to generate revenue because U.N. sanctions are causing severe hardship to the Iraqi people after the devastation of the Gulf war. The last round of talks was held in Vienna in March on a Security Council plan to allow the oil sale which also would finance war reparations and fund U.N. programmes such as destruction of Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes. The council plan for oil sale requires stringent U.N. monitoring of the sale, with proceeds to be placed in a U.N. bank account and U.N. approval required for all purchases. U.N. officials also would supervise distribution of supplies.

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Abu Jaber leaves for OIC meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber left for Ankara Tuesday to attend a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the situation in Bosnia. The meeting will also discuss the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Algerian paper slams U.S. kidnap ruling

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian newspaper on Tuesday called the U.S. Supreme Court decision to legalise kidnapping abroad of people wanted by American justice the "most illegal ever taken by any judicial authority in the world." The decision "legalises the kidnapping of General Noriega of Panama by American GIs and, more serious still, could be used to justify an eventual kidnapping of two Libyans in the Lockerbie affair or the liquidation of Saddam Hussein who hugely upsets the Americans," Le Quotidien d'Algerie said. It asked what the reaction would be if foreign countries kidnapped people they wanted from the United States, and added: "How many war criminals... have benefited from American asylum while they are sought in their own countries?" And what "if Iraq decided to kidnap (President George) Bush for war crimes?" the newspaper asked.

Brother of Yemeni premier killed

SANAA (R) Gunmen assassinated the brother of Yemeni Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas in the southern province of Hadramawt on Sunday, Sanaa Radio said. The unidentified gunmen shot Hashem Abu Bakr Al Attas dead outside his house in the town of Al Shihri, it reported late on Monday. He was buried there on Monday in the presence of his brother, who arrived from the southern port of Aden. The radio described the gunmen as "criminals... who aim to disrupt security and block the march of unity." Security sources in the capital Sanaa said Mr. Attas's brother was not active in politics and they could see no motive for the assassination other than disrupting security.

Bhutto party urges clemency for Najibullah

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Appealing to Afghan Muslims for mercy, the opposition coalition led by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto asked them Tuesday to grant amnesty to fugitive former President Najibullah. The former communist leader has been hiding in U.N. compound in Kabul, the Afghan capital, since he paved up power April 16 (see page 2). "It's a question of human rights," said Khursid Kasuri, secretary-general of the People's Democratic Alliance Party. Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party is the largest party in the coalition.

Suleiman Franjleh leaves cabinet

BEIRUT (R) — A Christian government minister said on Tuesday he was resigning because he was invited to a presidential launch with another minister accused of killing his family. "I consider myself resigned from the government and I am not waiting for an answer because the problem was bigger than that," Suleiman Tony Franjleh told Lebanese radio stations. Mr. Franjleh left the launch for a visiting Roman Catholic cardinal at the presidential headquarters on hearing that Samir Geagea, leader of the hardline Christian Lebanese Forces group had resigned. Mr. Franjleh accuses Dr. Geagea, who himself resigned as a cabinet minister in May, of killing his father, mother, sister and some 30 supporters at their villa in north Lebanon in 1978. Dr. Geagea has said he took part in an attack on the villa. Mr. Franjleh, whose base is in northern Lebanon, was housing minister in the government of Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh.

Bush and Yeltsin announce new cuts in nuclear arsenal

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday announced an agreement to reduce their arsenals of long-range nuclear warheads to between 3,500 and 3,000 each. "With this agreement, the nuclear nightmare recedes more and more for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren," Mr. Bush said in a Rose Garden statement with Mr. Yeltsin during the first day of their two-day summit. The new cuts would be completed by 2003 and possibly as early as 2000 if the United States can assist Russia in destruction of its ballistic missile systems, Mr. Bush said. The reductions would cut by two-thirds the estimated 10,000 warheads each side now has. Under the as-yet unratified Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the United States' ceiling on strategic warheads is about 8,500 and for Russia, 6,500. "These are remarkable steps for our two countries, a departure from the tensions and suspicions of the past," Mr. Bush said. Mr. Bush said the cuts would

eliminate the "world's most dangerous weapons," the destabilising long-range nuclear missile systems that were long a symbol of cold war tensions. Mr. Yeltsin, speaking through an interpreter, said the negotiations were held "without deception, without anyone wishing to gain unilateral advantage." "Mr. President, what we have achieved is an unparalleled and probably unexpected thing for you and the whole world," he said. "We have been able to cut in those five months of negotiations the total of (our) nuclear warheads to one-third." He called the new agreement an "expression of the fundamental change in the political and economic relations between the United States and Russia." "We know one thing, we should not fight against each other," Mr. Yeltsin said. He said the fact that either side can choose to have between 3,000 and 3,500 was a departure from the "ominous parity" doctrine of the cold war in which each side wanted at least as many warheads as the other. Answering questions from re-

porters, Mr. Yeltsin said Russia "can't afford" to engage in an arms race with the United States. Added Mr. Bush: "Certainly I agree with President Yeltsin, the cold war is over. There is no animosity between us." He said a new arms treaty, representing their new negotiated warhead levels, would be signed and submitted to Congress for ratification. Mr. Bush also said he and Mr. Yeltsin had agreed to work together, along with the allies and other interested states, to develop a concept for a global protection system against limited ballistic missile attack. Earlier, Mr. Bush welcomed Mr. Yeltsin as a modern-day Peter the Great and said their summit marked the start of a new era in post-cold war relations. "Mr. President, like Peter the Great, you are redefining... Russia's role in the world," Mr. Bush told Mr. Yeltsin during an elaborate arrival ceremony at the White House. The president and Mrs. Bush greeted Mr. Yeltsin and his wife.

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U.S. seen signalling push for better ties with Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker has assured the president of the American Jewish Congress (AJC) that Israel will be consulted in planning for a global defence system. "It is our hope and expectation that Israel will participate fully in this initiative as it moves forward," Mr. Baker wrote Robert K. Lifton, president of the Jewish group, on June 1. Mr. Lifton, releasing Mr. Baker's letter Tuesday, said he welcomed it. The defence planning is expected to include Russia, the 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies, Australia, Japan and South Korea. "We have already discussed our initial ideas with the government of Israel," Mr. Baker wrote. Mr. Lifton had written Mr. Baker to say he was "puzzled" by Israel's apparent omission from a list of nations invited to participate in discussions. The Bush administration has not explained what kind of defence arrangement it foresees or said against whom a defence system would be constructed. According to officials and Jew-

ish sources the Baker message is a signal of the U.S. administration's desire to improve its strained relations with Israel after next week's election there. The U.S. also is pondering several concrete moves including reopening the question of \$10 billion in loan guarantees, according to the sources. The sources expect strains in the U.S.-Israel relationship to ease whether Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wins the June 23 election. But Jewish sources expect the improvement to be much more dramatic if Mr. Rabin wins. One Jewish leader said the Jewish community had been told that the administration was considering five concrete steps to improve ties with Israel, strained by repeated disputes over Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. The five were: — A high-profile meeting between Mr. Bush and American Jewish leaders. — A Bush speech in which the president would try to correct what he considered were false impressions about his Israel policy and to "put things back on track." — "Maybe there would be a freeze in settlement building," to meet with U.S. conditions for granting Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees to house Soviet immigrants, Mr. Harel said. "But you cannot stop natural growth," or expansion of the more than 140 settlements built in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since Israel occupied them in the 1967 war. The settlers' view that the occupied territories are inextricably parts of Israel or should be annexed is represented by five parties running in the elections, including Likud. Mr. Harel said even a government headed by Mr. Rabin would not succeed in dismantling settlements if it negotiated a land for peace agreement with Palestinians. "We are well beyond the point of no return," he said. "We intend to stay where we are and go on building settlements, enlarging settlements, we regard the area as our home and will go on building it." However, Amiram Goldblum, a spokesman for the Peace Now movement, maintained that international pressure eventually would force Israel to relinquish

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Libyan congressmen balk at suggesting surrender

SIRTE, Libya (Agencies) — All 631 members of Libya's General People's Congress know they have to decide whether to hand over two airframe bombing suspects for trial in the West. But so far, none has openly suggested surrendering the men. The "revolutionary committees" newspaper Al Jamahiriya has run a week-long campaign attacking Libya's policies of Arab nationalism as a mirage and urging reconciliation with the West. On Tuesday the Green March newspaper published by the official news agency JANA also said Libyans were no longer prepared to support Muammar Qadhafi's pan-Arabism and urged him to put Libya first. "We are not prepared to march behind an illusion and a mirage, nor are we willing to lose our interests and sacrifice our potentials for his (Col. Qadhafi's) sake," it said in an editorial. But if anybody at the congress sympathises with these views, they are not prepared to say so. "Nobody can predict. It is a very sensitive subject," said one member from a remote desert region. On Monday, the congress

blamed the government for failing to provide studies for developing an income other than oil, the country's major source. And a senior official indicated his country would not submit to the West's demand for surrendering two Libyans suspected in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The West want to try the two Libyans suspects either in Britain or the United States. "I hope the congress will reiterate that we are ready for any kind of impartial, neutral investigation," said Saad Mujbar, Libya's ambassador to Paris who is here for the congress deliberations. Mr. Mujbar was referring to his country's offer that the two men be tried by a neutral court. The United States and Britain have rejected the offer. The U.N. Security Council imposed trade and diplomatic sanctions to force Libya to hand over the two suspects. Speaking to newsmen, Mr. Mujbar refused to reveal the final recommendation taken by a foreign affairs committee regarding the suspects. He said the congress would also discuss the issue before a final decision. His remarks reflected no chance in Libya's position on the West's demands.

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A recently released photo of German hostages Heinrich Struebzig (left) and Thomas Kempfner

Hostage release delayed

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Unexplained last-minute snags delayed the handover of two German hostages, reportedly released Monday night after three years' captivity, to German officials Tuesday. But the officials said they expected the problems to be re-

solved within hours. German envoy Bernd Schmidbauer, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's personal emissary, met with President Elias Hrawi for 45 minutes Tuesday and said the ordeal of the hostages, the last Westerners held in Lebanon, was nearing its

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League seeks UNHRC session on Palestinians

GENEVA (Agencies) — The Arab League has asked for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) to discuss the "dangerous deterioration" in the occupied territories, a United Nations spokesman said Tuesday. In a letter to Antoine Blarac, the head of the U.N.'s Human Rights Centre, the Arab League said critical shortages of food and medical supplies put the lives of more than 700,000 Palestinians at risk. U.N. spokesman Pierre Mehru said the request was unprecedented. New procedures agreed last year provide for an extraordinary session of the UNHRC if a majority of its 53

members are in favour. Mr. Mehru said the meeting may take place as early as next week. Several diplomats, who asked not to be identified, said the Arab proposal was almost certain to find the necessary backing. The majority of the commission's members are from Third World countries, including representatives from Tunisia, Somalia, Mauritania, Libya, Syria and Iraq. Resolutions criticising Israeli practices in occupied territories receive overwhelming support during the regular human rights session. U.S. and European officials said they had not yet decided whether to support the request for the meeting.

De facto political group dissolves itself, urges mergers aimed at strong united party

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — In a bid described as aimed at encouraging mergers among sprouting Jordanian political parties, the Democratic Unionist Association (DUA), a forerunner of political parties in the Kingdom, has announced it is dissolving after 17 years of political activities. The association's founder, a former Baathist and the minister of environment in the late Prime Minister Abdul Hameed Sharaf, Dr. Jamal Al Shaer, announced his party's dissolution over the Eid Al Adha holiday in what political obser-

vers said was an unprecedented move among political organisations in the Kingdom and across the Arab World. "I can't remember a time when political parties dissolved themselves; they usually break away and create a new one," said Mazen Saket, a former Baathist and steering committee member of the Jordan National Democrats Group, a new political organisation founded by former members of liberal, pan-Arab and leftist groups. According to Dr. Shaer, his aim is not to dissolve his party for the sake of ending its political mission, but to encourage mergers among the many political groupings, which are on

the verge of announcing themselves as political parties. "The aim now is to merge with other parties, to create a strong united party, not dozens of small weak parties," Dr. Shaer, who is a physician, told the Jordan Times over the weekend. The announcement comes at a time when political parties are bracing themselves to be legalised and according to Dr. Shaer the move is timely. "Before everyone starts registering and making things official there should be large scale consultations because the more parties there are the more difficult it will be to get a consensus on political issues on the national level," he explained.

Ministry of Interior officials and political observers say that at least 60 separate groups have indicated their intention to register as parties in the Kingdom once a draft law on political parties is approved and enacted by Parliament in its extraordinary session beginning Saturday. "Fragmentation will further delay progress in our society," Dr. Shaer said. "Our main slogan over the past 17 years has been to push for the return to parliamentary life in the Kingdom." The decision to dissolve DUA and encourage mergers with other parties was taken by

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Saddam: Iraqis could withstand more hardship

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein told Iraqis on Tuesday he was confident they could withstand greater hardship than those caused by the Gulf war and U.N. sanctions. "I still believe you could bear what happened to you and withstand what is harder," President Saddam said during a speech honouring ministers and officials who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with him during the war over Kuwait. "I see, after this moment, that we can carry out things that are greater and better than all those we did in the past," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted President Saddam as saying. Iraqi Television showed President Saddam, dressed in civilian clothes, chatting informally during the honour ceremony. The speech was the first by the Iraqi president for about two months. President Saddam said he had witnessed the difficulties caused by the war at first hand on the streets of Iraq's towns and cities, some of which were heavily

bombed by the U.S.-led allies who fought his army out of Kuwait at the end of February last year. "I did not administer the operations from the headquarters only, but toured the streets and saw Iraqi women shopping under extremely difficult circumstances," he said. Punishing sanctions have been in force against Iraq since shortly after its August, 1990 invasion of Kuwait. U.S. intelligence reports say that despite hardships caused by the sanctions President Saddam is more firmly in charge than a year ago (see page 2). President Saddam presented Information and Culture Minister Hamed Youssef Hummadi, two under-secretaries, and editors in chief of Iraq's official newspapers with merit awards for the roles they played during the Gulf war. In a brief reference to the post-Gulf war rebellions in northern Iraq, President Saddam said the conspiracy in the north was still going on.

Iran-backed guerrillas join Afghan government

KABUL (R) — Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim guerrillas have joined Afghanistan's six-week old Islamic government, assuming control of the Ministry of National Security, interim President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi said on Tuesday. Members of the Hezb-e-Wahadat, an alliance of ethnic Hazara Shiites who claim to represent 25 per cent of Afghanistan's population, were assigned three government ministries, including national security. "I regard this as a positive development," Mr. Mojaddidi told reporters and diplomats gathered in the presidential palace. "The presence of Wahadat will help us realise the aspirations of the Afghan people and restore security." Less than two weeks ago, Wahadat forces battled rivals from the Saudi-backed Sunni Muslim Ittehad-e-Islami in street fighting in Kabul which claimed more than 100 lives. Even as Mr. Mojaddidi was

welcoming Wahadat forces into the government, he was pushing another guerrilla group — the Hezb-e-Islami followers of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar — further out. "I have feared that we cannot accept Hekmatyar to participate in this government," Mr. Mojaddidi said. "His people have been involved in looting and destroying government property... and in killing innocent civilians." Mr. Hekmatyar's fighters were driven from Kabul in late April by a combination of forces loyal to new Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood. Mr. Hekmatyar, a fiery Islamic fundamentalist and frequent critic of the West, is a rival of both Mr. Mojaddidi and Mr. Masood. But most observers say the Afghan government — a patchwork of rival guerrilla groups divided by region, religion and ethnicity — will remain inherently unstable until Mr. Hekmatyar is either brought inside or defeated militarily.

Palestinian 'collaborator' killings defy leaders

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

The older generation of Palestinian leaders has asked young activists to stop killing informers.

The reply has been seven corpses in the past six days. Nearly 500 Palestinians have been shot, hacked or beaten to death as suspected collaborators with the Israeli army occupying the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The leaders, in the international spotlight because of U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks, want the "blot" of Arab killing Arabs wiped from the Palestinian uprising that began in December 1987.

Their call has been largely heeded in the West Bank where the dominant force is Fatah, the dominant wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Collaborator kidnappings and killings there have fallen sharply in the last month.

But in the Gaza Strip "strike forces" affiliated to radical PLO factions and the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas have shot dead seven Arabs since Thursday.

Suspected Hamas activists dumped two bodies outside the

Gaza home of a Palestinian journalist who had called for an end to the slayings. Three other Arabs were killed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) wing of the PLO, Palestinians said.

"The international media is trying to show us as murderers," said Abu Majid, a commander of the PFLP in Gaza. "I challenge any Palestinian to bring me one case of someone who was killed who was innocent," he told Reuters.

"We have two classifications of collaborators. Those like drug addicts and people guilty of immoral behaviour we try to reform."

"The second group is murderers and criminals responsible for killing Palestinians and running a network of spies. On evidence, are killed," Abu Majid said.

Abu Majid, a nom de guerre for a 28-year-old activist, said most suspects were investigated, kidnapped, and their "confession" tape-recorded. Their fate was decided by the leadership outside the occupied territories.

But he said those collaborators armed by the Israelis who were too dangerous to kidnap and those who were known to have killed other Arabs could be "executed" on the orders of local leaders.

Such autonomy has been abused according to senior local leaders such as Haider Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"I am extremely disturbed by this (latest spate of) killing," Dr. Abdul Shafi told Reuters. "It shows the depth of the problem. It is not enough to make further calls for an end to it. We have to think of something. We do not want this to be a source of conflict between ourselves. We have enough problems with the (Israeli) occupation."

Dr. Abdul Shafi said Palestinians would meet in Amman later this week and discuss a code of honour for the occupied territories. Fatah and Hamas were reported to have reached an understanding in the Gaza Strip last week to curb rivalry and collaborator killings.

Copies of the document were clandestinely distributed last week but Hamas sources said it had still not been finalised.

Hardliners in the streets of the strip are unlikely to be restrained by a piece of paper. "We are sure that the PFLP will not sign anything like that," Abu Majid said. "Collaboration is a bad social problem that we have to solve."



SHAMIR IN SLUMBER: Protesters outside the office of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dress up a doll of Mr. Shamir to stress his alleged tendency to doze off during meetings. The sign reads "With Shamir in pyjamas, we sleep better."

Israelis angry at Shamir's absence at Lebanon event

TEL AVIV (R) — Families of Israeli soldiers killed during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon said they were angry at Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for not attending a memorial service on Monday ahead of the June 23 elections.

Mr. Shamir's Likud Party is facing its stiffest electoral challenge in 15 years from the main opposition Labour Party, led by Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Rabin presided over Israel's 1967 war as army chief and as defence minister ordered the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon in 1985.

Earlier this month Mr. Shamir was accused of downplaying the anniversary of the 1967 war because of Mr. Rabin's part in it.

But it was commemorated by contrast, the Lebanon war, commonly seen as Israel's Vietnam, received little attention on its tenth anniversary.

"The prime minister attends every memorial, only ours he doesn't come to," one bereaved mother told army radio at the memorial ceremony for 654 soldiers who fell in Lebanon until Israel withdrew to a border security strip in 1985.

"If there wasn't consensus on this war, it still doesn't mean that he doesn't have to be at the memorial. We're very, very angry," the mother said.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens represented the government at the ceremony at a military cemetery.

An argument broke out among the bereaved when a representa-

tive selected to speak for them criticised present Israeli policy in Lebanon. Some said he was exploiting the memorial to make a political message.

"The massive (attacks) of the air force on targets (in South Lebanon) has not prevented activities of these radical groups," Michael Zinder said.

"The conclusion is that there is no army in the world that has succeeded... to destroy hostile guerrilla groups outside the borders of its country. As long as the army remains over our northern border, we will continue to pay a heavy, dear price," he said.

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 in what the public thought would be a short operation to push guerrillas back from Israel's northern border. Instead, troops moved all the way to Beirut.

Eventually, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas were forced to leave Lebanon, but many filtered back. In its effort to push out the PLO, Israel alienated Lebanese in southern Lebanon.

Late Likud Prime Minister Menachem Begin, head of the government during the invasion, resigned in 1983 with the troops still in Lebanon.

Hizbollah and Palestinian guerrillas have increased attacks on Israeli troops and their South Lebanon Army client militia in the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon since then.

Israel has retaliated with repeated air strikes and shellings.

Gorbachev praised for reshaping Mideast politics

HAIFA (R) — Seven years after taking control of a government hostile to Israel and Jewish emigration, Mikhail Gorbachev stood on an Israeli stage to receive an award for reshaping Middle East politics.

"I am well aware of the complicated weave of problems that combined to form the worst tangled ever," the former Soviet president said on Monday.

"It is now clear that with the background of the cold war, it was quite impossible to untangle it."

His speech on receiving the Harvey Peace prize, and its \$35,000 award, underlined how far Soviet policy in the Middle East had changed under his leadership.

When Mr. Gorbachev took office in 1985, the Soviet Union stood firmly behind Israel's toughest foes such as Syria and did not even have diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

"Our appraisal of the situation remained one-sided," he said. That was a view long-held by Israel, but not shared by Arab states that looked to Soviet military aid to counter the U.S. weapons that have made Israel the strongest power in the region.

Under Mr. Gorbachev, the Kremlin told Syria it would not back its goal of military parity with Israel and moved methodically towards last October's restoration of full diplomatic relations.

Most important to many Arabs, especially Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mr. Gorbachev removed barriers to Jewish emigration.

Since late 1989 about 400,000 people have moved from the former Soviet Union to Israel, reawakening Arab fears of a strong and expansionist Jewish state.

"It was decided to award the prize... to Mr. Gorbachev for his substantial contributions to peace in our region by removing his nation from an active position in the Israel-Arab crisis, his contribution in reducing the regional arms race and his stand against despotism during the Gulf crisis," said a statement from Technion, the technological institute that gave the award.

"Under his leadership, his country formulated a more balanced stand in the Middle East crisis, and renewed its diplomatic relations with Israel," the statement said.

Earlier on the second day of his five-day visit, Mr. Gorbachev criticised Palestinian sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf war, in which the Soviet Union sided with the United States.

Mr. Gorbachev, treated like a head of state despite being forced from office last December, was to receive honorary degrees from other Israeli universities Tuesday and Wednesday.

Although the Kremlin lined up against U.S.-backed Israel for most of its existence, it had strongly supported its creation in 1948.

Mr. Gorbachev alluded to that brief relationship when he noted he had joined U.S. President George Bush as co-chairman of the Middle East peace talks that began last October.

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Mr. Gorbachev, treated like a head of state despite being forced from office last December, was to receive honorary degrees from other Israeli universities Tuesday and Wednesday.

Although the Kremlin lined up against U.S.-backed Israel for most of its existence, it had strongly supported its creation in 1948.

Mr. Gorbachev alluded to that brief relationship when he noted he had joined U.S. President George Bush as co-chairman of the Middle East peace talks that began last October.

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Najibullah marks

2 months in hiding in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Former Afghan President Najibullah is a forgotten, isolated man two months after he tried to flee a guerrilla onslaught and ended up a virtual prisoner in a United Nations compound in Kabul.

"He has lost his authority, his prestige, his hopes," said a former senior member of Mr. Najibullah's government.

"I think in the future he will be a mad man."

Mr. Najibullah, who took power in 1986, took refuge in the compound on April 16 after his own military forces denied him permission to enter Kabul's airport and flee the country.

Interim Afghan President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi declared a general amnesty for all former government officials after he assumed power in late April.

But some leaders reject the amnesty, especially as it applies to Mr. Najibullah, and have demanded the former president be tried for crimes against the people.

Burbanuddin Rabbani, scheduled to take up the presidency on June 28, says Mr. Najibullah must be brought to justice.

The former president — who headed the secret police for six years and developed a reputation as a tough, impassive ruler — has always shown a stubborn will to survive.

Western observers expected him to last just a few weeks after the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan in February 1989, but he held onto power for more than three years.

That he remains alive in the centre of guerrilla-controlled Kabul is another sign of his tenacity.

U.N. envoy discusses

Sahara with King Hassan

KABAT (R) — King Hassan conferred on Monday with U.N. special representative on Western Sahara Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who was visiting Morocco to try to rescue a peace plan for the disputed former Spanish colony.

Officials gave no details of the talks held at the royal palace. Mr. Yaqub-Khan met in Casablanca last week with representatives of the Polisario Front fighting for independence since 1976.

The U.N. peace plan to settle the conflict with a self-determination referendum has been accepted by both sides but they disagree on who should vote.

Rabat wants up to 120,000 refugees who fled to Morocco over the years included in the list of voters, while Polisario says the list should be based on a Spanish census taken in 1974 which counted about 74,000 people.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said in a report on June 2 that the U.N. Security Council may wish to consider a different approach to Western Sahara if the present plan of a referendum was still blocked by the end of August.

After a ceasefire proclaimed last September the referendum was originally due to have been held in January. No new date has been announced.

Mr. Yaqub Khan, a former Pakistani foreign minister, is due to travel from Morocco to neighbouring Algeria for further talks with the Polisario which has its main bases in Algeria.

The negotiations are then due to move to New York for further separate talks with each side.

U.S. rules Syria denying union rights to workers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has suspended duty concessions on certain Syrian goods on a finding that Syria fails to provide its workers internationally recognised rights to organise units and bargain collectively.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla A. Hills announced Monday.

As a result, Syrian businesses will no longer be able to ship goods to this country under an arrangement that last year admitted \$13.7 billion worth of imports duty-free, or at special low duties, she announced.

A similar ruling last year suspended such privileges for Sudan.

The special preferences go to 137 Third World countries.

Mrs. Hill said a review of the situation of workers' rights in Mauritania, Panama and El Salvador will be continued for a year, and a review of Thailand will be extended until Dec. 15.

In her announcement, she took special notice of El Salvador, where the government has promised as part of its peace accord

with rebels to propose a new labour code.

"This represents an important, serious beginning by the government of El Salvador to address a variety of significant worker rights issues," she said.

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were found to have already taken or to be in the process of taking steps to grant workers' rights.

These countries will remain eligible for benefits.

As a result of a special review ordered by President George Bush, Mrs. Hill announced extension of the privilege to 83 items from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Bulgaria. Most were chemicals, but they also included wine and pork bellies from Hungary, as well as alarm clocks and sleeping bags from Czechoslovakia.

It was estimated that as a result of the special review, the four countries will be able to export an additional \$35.9 million worth of their products next year to the United States.

Iran launches special riot squads after violent unrest

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has formed special riot squads to help local police suppress anti-government unrest, Kayhan newspaper on Monday quoted Iran's police chief as saying.

The report follows calls by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and other leaders for iron-fist suppression of anti-government demonstrations after riots in several cities.

"The police is determined to deal with any ominous move aiming to undermine society's calm," Kayhan quoted police chief General Mohammad Sohrabi as saying.

Gen. Sohrabi, attending a "crowd control manoeuvre" in the western city of Ilam, said special units called the "Guardians of the Islamic Revolution" were formed at the central police command and district headquarters.

"They will rush to help whenever frontline police forces need reinforcement," Gen. Sohrabi said.

The police came under criticism for failing to curb Iran's biggest riots in a decade which erupted in the holy city of Mashhad in the northeast last month.

Gen. Sohrabi replaced the provincial police chief and disciplined other officers.

"Those elements who burned down buildings in Shiraz, Arak and Mashhad are corruptors on the earth and the police attitude towards them is quite clear," Gen. Sohrabi said.

Iran's Islamic penal code sets the death penalty for "corruptors on the earth," which include armed opponents of the government.

Iran last week hanged four men for rioting in Mashhad and executed four others in the southern city of Shiraz for rioting there in April.

The report did not give the strength of the special units, but Gen. Sohrabi said most of its members were drawn from the former Islamic Revolutionary Committee.

5 explosives experts killed in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Five men working for a British firm clearing munitions left over from the Gulf war have been killed in an explosion, a spokesman for the firm said Tuesday.

The Briton and four Indians were working near an ammunition dump 55 kilometres south of Kuwait City on Monday when the explosion occurred, said Gary Dickson, a spokesman for the British firm Royal Ordnance.

One other man was injured. The names of the men, all retired from the military, were not released pending the notification of kin.

The exact cause of the explosion is still under investigation and the firm refused to release details of what the men were doing until it was completed.

"I must have been a big explosion to kill five people," said Mr. Dickson.

The tonnes of mines and ammunition left over by the Iraqis as well as unexploded bombs dropped by allied forces have become increasingly unstable after two years in the searing desert temperatures over 50 degrees.

Munitions experts at other firms noted that previous standard procedures for handling munitions are sometimes inadequate due to the nature of the explosives.

Royal Ordnance is nearing completion of a year-long contract believed worth \$100 million to clear leftover ammunition in Kuwait City as well as 1,450 square kilometres in the south-eastern corner of Kuwait. Mr. Dickson said the firm has removed more than 1,500 tonnes of ammunition.

Three Britons working for Royal Ordnance have been killed in previous incidents. The Kuwaiti Defence Ministry announced Monday that 29 munitions experts had died and 43 wounded in explosions.

Teams from Britain, the United States, France, Egypt, Bangladesh, Turkey and Pakistan are clearing various sectors.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Le Monde est a vous
18:30 News in French
19:15 Carre Vert
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Soccer Match
21:00 Saved by the Bell
21:30 News in English
22:30 A Tale of Two Cities

PRAYER TIMES

03:51 Fajr
05:25 Sunrise
12:36 Dhuhr
16:16 Asr
19:47 Maghrib
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Tornassese Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 811295
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue to be partly cloudy to cloudy, and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northwesterly fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and winds will be northerly fresh and seas windy.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 14 / 22
Aqaba 22 / 32
Desert 14 / 25
Jordan Valley 20 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 79 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

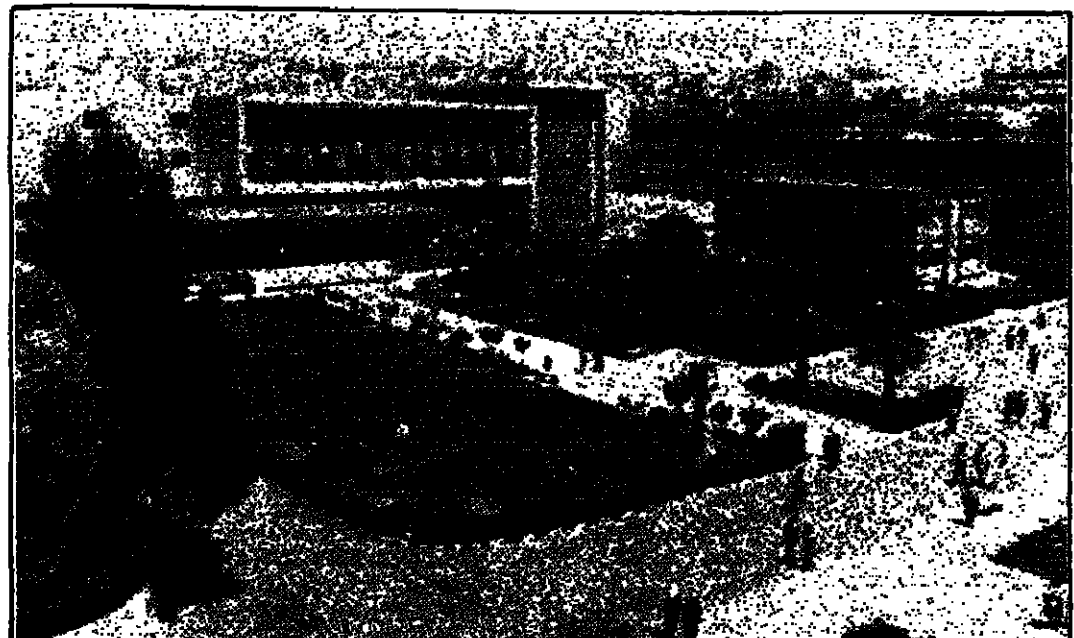
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tyyeen 620115
Dr. Muhammad Al Nahawi 639225
Dr. Muhammad Mannan 741444
Dr. Basim Qaddoumi 646024
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 776336
Al Azura pharmacy 670255
Nawrook pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649485
Shamsad pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ziad Al Bakri (—)
Al Shams pharmacy (275625)
ZARQA:
Dr. Akid Ghazal (—)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

REPAIRS:
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 627225

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Qasab All Ind. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akid Maternity, J. Amn. 642442
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mithas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shamsad 6611



A general scene from the University of Jordan (file photo)

'Groups' involved in university incidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior official at the University of Jordan has admitted in a statement published in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday that several "regretful incidents" caused by people from outside and inside the campus had occurred recently. But, he noted that most of the problems were caused by a limited number of groups which he did not name.

Dr. Suleiman Arabiyat, vice president for administrative affairs, said in a statement that it was regretful to see such incidents taking place, forcing the university administration to take security measures; many of the problems were found to have been caused by people entering the campus illegally.

Some of the graduates who are still unemployed, together with others from outside the university, had quarrels with some students on the campus recently, forcing the administration to adopt drastic measures to ensure security and safety for all, Dr. Arabiyat said.

He said that as a rule all students entering the campus should produce identity cards but this system was not always strictly enforced. The university, however, has 13 gates and it is easy for trouble-makers to enter on foot and sometimes in cars, Dr. Arabiyat added. The university administration has resolved two major problems that occurred recently on the campus and punished the

culprits, and in some cases trouble makers from outside the university have been referred to the police, noted Dr. Arabiyat.

Furthermore, Dr. Arabiyat conceded that influential university officials had insisted that their own sons, who study at the university, enter the campus in their own cars, against rules and regulations. He said in some cases the drivers quarrelled with the guards at the gates and attacked them.

The university has a large car park just outside the gates and it is now doing all that in its power to prevent any one from driving into the campus. He appealed to all students and parents to abide by the regulations and to respect the rules.

Police say murder case solved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Police Department announced Tuesday that it knows the identity of a killer who murdered his friend and dumped the body in a trench along the Queen Alia International Airport last month.

The body was found on May 10 after a police investigation of the crime according to a police statement, which did not reveal the names of the murderer and the victim.

The Jordan Times tried to get the names from the Public Security Department (PSD) responsible for releasing such information. A PSD official said the department wanted to conceal the men's identity.

According to the statement, which was reported by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the murderer had close ties with the victim and on the day of the crime both were riding in a car heading towards Al Wazzanat District, east of Amman.

The report said that the two men had a fight over some unknown problem, resulting in a fatal shot to the victim's head by gun. The murderer has admitted that he put the victim in the boot of the car and drove the body to an outlying area for burial.

The next day he went to the police with the victim's relatives to report his friend as missing. Investigations into the crime led the police to suspect murder and after repeated interrogation the murderer confessed to the crime, the report said.

It said that the man had to re-enact the crime in front of the public prosecutor and the police officers.

Labour Ministry to help returnees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Between August 2, 1990 and the end of 1991 at least 300,000 Jordanians working in Kuwait have returned home, including about 70,000 workers who have lost their jobs and savings, according to Dr. Mohammad Abdul Hadi Akel, director of a committee supervising the gathering of information to help compensate these expatriates, in accordance with United Nations regulations.

Following their eviction from Kuwait after the Gulf crisis, thousands of Jordanians who owned and worked for organisations and businesses incurred heavy financial losses, according to Dr. Akel. Dr. Akel said that his committee, its members appointed by the Ministry of Labour is doing all it can to help the expatriates in Jordan abroad to receive compensation from the U.N.

To get information about the

expatriates and their losses, Dr. Akel said that the post offices in Jordan are distributing and forwarding forms to his committee. The applications are being sent to the responsible U.N. committee. In these forms the expatriates are to note the money they lost as a result of being evicted from Kuwait.

Dr. Akel said that the process of filling out forms will continue until August 20 this year.

So far, 250,000 forms have been distributed by post offices and a special committee set up by expatriates helping with the process, Dr. Akel noted.

There are three types of forms distributed to the expatriates: Payment for people forced to leave Iraq and Kuwait; compensation for injuries and death sustained in the process; and, individual claims for compensation resulting from injuries or

death of family members, as well as losses in cash, shares and bonds, securities, wages, real estate and etc, according to Dr. Akel.

He added that the committee is expecting another form concerning claims for compensation for losses exceeding \$100,000.

As the government is keen on distributing the forms to all expatriates, Dr. Akel said the forms will also be dispersed by Jordanian embassies abroad.

Dr. Akel said that all forms should be written in English so that they can be understood by the U.N. committee dealing with compensation. According to Yahya Otaibi, chairman of the expatriates committee seeking compensation, 75 per cent of the returning expatriates have not received any compensation for their lost wages and other property in Kuwait. He said only those

who were employed by the public sector received some money. The expatriate committee is helping Jordanians to fill out the forms and to attach all the documents the process requires, Mr. Otaibi said.

According to Mr. Otaibi, his committee intends to seek legal proceedings to ensure compensation for the expatriates. The Ministry of Labour said that once the forms have been collected they would be channelled to the U.N. committee on compensation through the Foreign Ministry in Amman.

The return of workers from Kuwait has raised the number of registered unemployed people in Jordan last year, to 129,000, according to Ministry of Labour sources. They said that compensation would alleviate the problems expatriates are suffering.

In bed or reform, students still take tests

AMMAN (J.T.) — Out of a total of 73,175 students taking the Tawjihli examinations that started Tuesday throughout the country, nine are answering questions while being treated in hospitals and 21 while serving terms as juvenile delinquents in reform institutions, according to Abdul Rahman Shubailat, director of the Ministry of Education's examination department. He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that reports about the first examination taken in all 971 examination halls in Jordan were satisfactory and that no incidents were reported.

He added that 105 students are also taking the same examinations in Tunis.

The students are sitting for literary, scientific, agricultural, industrial, commercial, nursing and hotel management examinations.

Mr. Shubailat said that the Ministry of Education, which is sponsoring and supervising the examinations, has set up an operations room to receive and deal with remarks, complaints and other calls from people related to the tests, including students with objections about the halls and test questions.

The ministry plans to end the current test-taking session by June 27, and to begin marking and evaluating the papers immediately, Mr. Shubailat noted. He said that the evaluations, to be conducted by 4,000 teachers, will take at least 10 days.

The results will be added to the Tawjihli examinations taken earlier this year by the same students and the final results should be out by the end of next month, allowing time for the students to apply to universities and community colleges.



Students sit for the second semester Tawjihli exams in one of the many halls in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

JUST, Ottawa University cooperate

AMMAN — Dr. Kamel Ajlouni, President of Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST), received in his office on Tuesday, Professor Nicolas Georganas, Dean of Engineering at the University of Ottawa, Canada. President Ajlouni and Dean Georganas reviewed the different activities of the Telecommunications Project between JUST and the University of Ottawa, and its progress in the last three years.

Dr. Nicolas Georganas is the director of the project "Training in Research and Development for JUST in Support of Telecommunications Needs in Jordan".

This project, started in April 1989, aims to establish a Centre of Excellence in Telecommunications at JUST. The goal of this centre is to train telecommunica-

tion engineers from Jordan and neighbouring Arab countries on state-of-the-art technology in this rapidly advancing field. The project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency by about 1.2 million dollars over five years. Through this project seven students from JUST have been sent to study for a Ph.D. degree in Electrical Communications at the University of Ottawa and several faculty exchange visits from JUST and University of Ottawa have taken place. A digital communications laboratory has also been established at JUST as well as two intensive courses have been held at JUST by faculty members from JUST and University of Ottawa. About 100 engineers from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar,

and Oman have participated in these courses.

The purpose of Dr. Georganas visit is to coordinate the activities of this project. Several meetings will be held with Dr. Abu-El-Hajja and other faculty members from the Electrical Engineering Department at JUST. Future faculty and student exchanges, as well as intensive courses were discussed. A short course on "Optical Fiber Communication Systems" will be given at JUST from August 25 to September 2, 1992, and professors from the University of Ottawa and JUST will lecture in this course. Courses which will be given in the future will include Computer Communications, Integrated Services Digital Networks (ISDN), Digital and Data Communica-

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafi' Nasiri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m.-5 p.m.).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by 40 Jordanian artists entitled "An Artist and a Painting" at Baladina Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tantawi at the Phoenix Gallery for Experimental Arts.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Patrice Pail at the French Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times
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-Rihani Stores, Tel. 693775
The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Iceland's premier

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable on Tuesday to the Icelandic Prime Minister to congratulate her on the country's national day. The cable is on behalf of the King, the Jordanian people and government. King Hussein wished the Icelandic premier and people further progress and prosperity.

House committees meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat on Tuesday called on members of the house's permanent office, chairman and rapporteurs of committees and leaders of parliamentary blocs to meet Wednesday morning. The meeting is held in preparation of the house's extraordinary session which will start June 20.

2,491 students graduate from Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University celebrated Tuesday the graduation of the 13th batch of its student. University President Ali Mahafza delivered an address at the graduation ceremony in which he congratulated the 2,491 graduating students. At the end of the ceremony, which was attended by several deputies from Irbid governorate, the president of Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and several officials, Dr. Mahafza distributed diplomas to the graduates.

IDB grants loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has extended 43 loans worth JD 252,400 for various projects during the first quarter of the current year. These loans were allocated for the purchase of equipment for medical clinics and laboratories, aluminium and iron workshops, clothes factories, car repair shops, restaurants, bakeries and leather manufacturing factories. The IDB sources said Amman governorate got the bulk of the loans with 23 loans worth JD 143,100 allocated for it.

Jordanian-Turkish relations discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Marwan Awad met Tuesday with Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Ali Iremcelik. Mr. Awad discussed with the ambassador cooperation between Jordan and Turkey and issues listed on the agenda of the joint Jordanian-Turkish committee meetings which will start in Amman June 22.

Labour offices resume work

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour and employment offices in around the Kingdom have resumed granting work permits for foreign workers in the country following the Eid Al Adha holiday. The Ministry of Labour had earlier set the end of June as the deadline for foreign labourers to get work permits. After the expiry of the deadline, illegal workers will be deported from the country.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973

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Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
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Fading currency

LIBYA APPEARS to be in a whirlpool of confusion and conflicting signals. The last round of chaos in judgement in Tripoli was touched off by the ongoing debate in the Libyan General People's Congress on the bombing of a Pan Am Airliner in 1988 over Scotland and the demand by the U.N. Security Council that Libya hand over two citizens suspected of causing the crash. On the score alone, there appears to be no less than two or three Libyan schools of thought on how to handle the United Nations' demand that the two Libyans be extradited and the subsequent April 15 Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Tripoli for not heeding the demand. Small wonder then that the world kept hearing conflicting reports about the Libyan stance on the Lockerbie tragedy.

There is hardly a day that passes by without the Libyan leadership issuing different postures on the issue and in the process adding more credence to reports about a leadership crisis in Libya and a possible collapse in the chain of command. With this in mind, it might be thought that the Lockerbie crisis has not been the main issue that troubles the Libyan country but rather a symptom of the overall struggle for power within the Libyan hierarchy. The crisis that began with the bombing affair served only as a catalyst to surface deep-rooted rifts within the Libyan centres of power, it might as well be said. But what exacerbated the internal conflict in Libya and brought it to new heights the most must be the Libyan daily newspaper Al-Jamahiriyah's sudden and raving attack on Islamic and Arab countries last week for allegedly not standing by Libya in times of crisis. Where Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi will stand in the end on these disturbing events emanating from the North African Arab country is still open for conjecture. Yet one thing is clear: He has wily nilly contributed to where Libya is today ever since his coup d'etat toppled the monarchy in Libya more than two decades ago. A sample of his policies in relatively recent times would shed light on the deteriorating situation in the country. Back in 1982, Colonel Qaddafi called on the Palestinians in Beirut besieged then by the invading Israeli army to commit mass suicide rather than give up and accept the available option of leaving the city. During the Iraq-Iran war, the Libyan leader seemed to favour Tehran over Baghdad and often stood by the Iranian Khomeini regime rather than offer to end the war and help out his Arab brothers in times of need. The colonel's position during the Gulf war was not less alarming either for his rhetoric on the conflict was characterised also by conflicting and contradictory signals. At one point the Iraqi armed forces were exhorted to fight all alone till the bitter end.

For the time being, the Libyan leader seems to be banking on his earlier successes based on making overtures to opposing groups within his country. This tactic has been overplayed, however, and it may witness an abrupt end simply because it is a bankrupt policy. But whatever the outcome of the internal struggle in Tripoli, it looks like it would take many more years before Libya is restored to its real self.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily described the organisers of the Islamic countries foreign ministers' opening meeting Tuesday in Istanbul as conspirators, trying to harm the Muslims and Islam. The countries which called for the meeting are trying to exploit it in a manner to serve their own interests, although apparently, the meeting will be dedicated to discussing matters related to the situation in Yugoslavia and the ordeal of the Muslim people of that country falling victim to the civil war, the paper said. In order to appease the Palestinians by lip-service only, the organisers said that the meeting in Istanbul will also discuss the plight of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, the paper added. It said that since the meeting in Istanbul is to do justice to the Muslims of Yugoslavia, the participants and the organisers should also add to the agenda the plight of the Islamic world has raised a protest against the atrocities committed by the Kuwaitis against the Muslim, non-Kuwaiti Arabs living in the emirate. Also in Palestine, Lebanon and other areas of the Arab World, Muslims are being exposed to atrocities but no one in the Islamic World is concerned about them, especially the ordeal of the Palestinians under Israeli rule, the paper pointed out. It said that shocking false tears for the Muslims of Yugoslavia, while condoning the killing of the Muslims of Iraq and other parts of the Arab World, is disgusting and prompts us to hope that the foreign ministers' meeting in Istanbul will end up in absolute failure because it is an unjust meeting catering to the whims and the desires of the irresponsible organisers and no one else.

SAWT AL JHAAB daily criticised the world community for condoning continued Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians and repeated acts of aggression on Lebanon. Israel's continued barbaric raids on villages in southern Lebanon, which are not being checked by the world community, is something very shameful, it said. The continued raids have forced thousands of local inhabitants to flee their homes seeking safer areas to live, in the north, while the Security Council is buying itself with inhuman measures being applied on Iraq and Libya, said the paper. It said that the United States is leading the Security Council away from its real task and forcing the council member states to ignore continued atrocities committed by Israel in Lebanon and in Palestine. The paper said that the U.S. administration, which keeps bragging about peace and security, continues to back Israel's atrocities in the region, making peace impossible to attain. It said that the U.S. administration continues to hear Israeli government leaders announcing their determination to hold on to occupied Arab land without doing anything towards deterring Israel from such policies.

UNDP report: Global poverty, pollution are linked



Mahbab ul Haq

"In developing countries, it is not the quality of life that is at risk — it is life itself," says the Human Development Report 1992, published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). "Poverty is as great an enemy of the environment as misspent affluence." The report says that those who wish to tackle global pollution must tackle global poverty as well.

The report is third in an annual series, prepared by an independent team of distinguished economists under the guidance of Dr. Mahbab ul Haq, former Finance Minister of Pakistan and now Special Adviser to the UNDP Administrator.

"It is regrettable that only 'loud' environmental emergencies (e.g. global warming) receive most attention, rather than the more 'silent' emergencies which affect the lives of many more people in the world," says Dr. Haq. For instance, 750 million people suffer from acute diarrhoeal diseases annually, of which 4 million die; 1.3 billion people have no access to safe drinking water and 2.3 billion people lack access to sanitation services; an estimated 135 million people live in areas affected by desertification. Just the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation, some education in hygiene and attention to land erosion can alleviate these environmental problems and relieve much human suffering. But these issues are not receiving the attention they deserve in the current environmental debate, the report complains. "The loud emergencies are already wasting many lives."

The report suggests new models of sustainable development for both developed and developing countries. These models put people at the very centre of their concern and are far less demanding of energy or natural resources. For example, energy consumed in kilograms of oil equivalent per every \$100 of GNP output is currently 15 in Japan, 29 in Germany, 38 in U.S., 54 in

Canada, 106 in Egypt and 161 in China. If all industrial countries were to adopt the energy-efficient technologies currently employed in Japan, it would reduce global energy use by 36 per cent.

Environmental concerns should also lead to intense questioning of the current distribution and character of global growth. "Poor nations cannot accept that the industrial countries are entitled forever to an 85 per cent share of the world's income and a perpetuation of their energy-intensive patterns of consumption," says the report. The present wealth models of rich nations cannot be replicated all over the world without putting unbearable strains on the natural carrying capacity of the planet earth. The rich nations at present constitute roughly a quarter of the world's population but they consume 70 per cent of the world's energy, 75 per cent of its metals, 85 per cent of its wood and 60 per cent of its food. If the same material standards had to be replicated in the developing countries, it would require ten times the present amount of fossil fuel and roughly 200 times as much mineral wealth. These models of development, much change, the report says.

The report proposes new strategies for sustainable human development. "Environmental protection is vital," says the report. "But, like economic growth, it is a means of promoting human development." Adds Dr. Haq: "People are perhaps the most endangered species in many parts of the globe."

The report highlights the distinction between the environmental concerns of poor and rich nations. In poor nations, the main concern is about water and land. "Polluted water is a threat to life, and eroded land is a threat to livelihood," says the report. The industrial countries are now more concerned with global warming and depletion of ozone layers.

For all countries, environmentally sound accounting would require that GNP accounts take into consideration the depreciation of natural capital. Such calculations would reduce GNP estimates for Costa Rica by 6 per cent and for Indonesia by 9 per cent, estimates the report. "Environmental problems arise when the depreciation of nature is ignored merely because it carries no price tag."

For developing countries to adopt growth strategies that respect the physical environment, they will need to use less energy-intensive and more environmentally sound technologies. The question is how to make those often-expensive technologies available to the poorer countries. Innovative financing schemes and agreements are required. Also, a major effort will have to be made to build national capacity in developing countries to formulate and implement sustainable development strategies. Additional resources can be channelled through UNDP for this purpose.

Among the few large-scale institutions helping developing countries pursue environmentally sound development right now is the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF was created in 1991 by both developed and developing countries to fund projects in developing countries to reduce the pace of global warming and destruction of the ozone layer, and to protect biodiversity and international waterways. It is jointly run by UNDP, the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme. The report urges funding the GEF beyond the \$1.1 billion committed so far, opening a new window for national capacity building, increasing participation by developing countries and broadening its mandate.

But more is needed, says the report. It summarises several of the proposals made in recent years for systems of global environmental taxation. Among the proposals: — A global income tax of 0.1 per cent of the GNP of every country, to be spent on environmental programmes. — A fossil fuel consumption tax, which would yield about \$40 billion a year for the environment even if a tax of \$1 per barrel of oil or its equivalent is imposed on all fossil fuels. It would follow the examples of Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden, which have environmental taxes on fossil-fuel consumption.

— Pollution taxes on carbon dioxide and other pollutants, a tax the report admits would be hard to monitor and administer. — Greenhouse gas permits, which would allow each country a certain level of greenhouse gas emissions, probably based on population. The permits could be free, or leased for a period to generate environment revenues. They could be traded among countries so that developing countries not needing all their

quota of permits could lease them for revenue. "Ecological space" would thus be priced for all nations.

— Global common taxes, to pay for use of the oceans, the Antarctic or space, and international trade taxes on tropical hardwoods and other environmentally sensitive products. — Taxes on weapons, on defence expenditure or arms trading. — Taxes on consumer items, such as energy-efficient cars or household equipment.

Nothing will happen without international agreements, says the report. For developing countries to extend their environmental concerns past the immediate needs for survival and economic development, and for industrial countries to agree to taxation schemes, will require give and take between North and South. The first test of accommodation will come at the Earth Summit. Over the longer term, the Human Development Report urges a global compact that will cover a broad range of needs of both North and South.

"All countries will need to come together in joint action programmes based on a recognition that the shrinking rich minority of world population cannot make the world safe for itself, or for others, without the consent of the fast-expanding poor majority," says the report. It warns: "Only through cooperation can the world be made safe for all."

Abdulla Malik's weekly column does not appear in today's edition because the writer is abroad on holiday.

Insults and divisions — election time in Israel

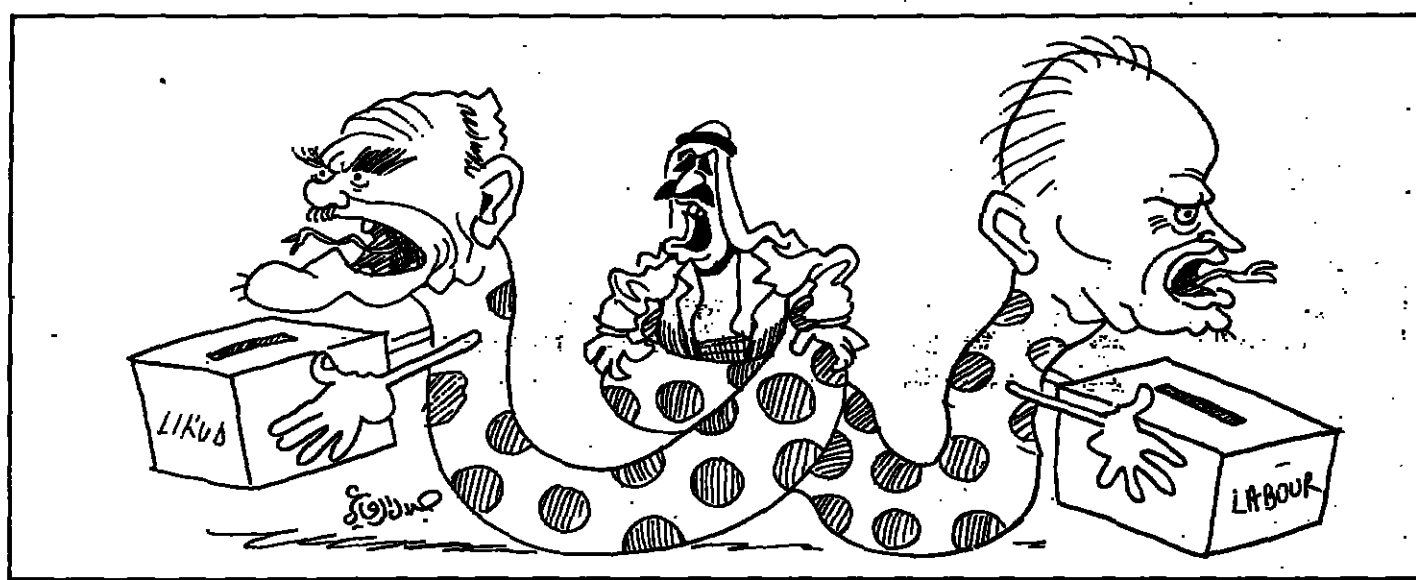
By Jack Rodden
Reuter

JERUSALEM — European and oriental Jews are trading insults, native-born Israelis are sniping at immigrants, left — and right-wing parties are smearing each other. It's election time in Israel.

The campaign for the June 23 vote has fired little debate on basic issues. Insults have provided the fuel for local media trying to ignite public interest. The 3.4 million eligible voters may not know the platforms of each party. But they know Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud has portrayed Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin, 70, as an unstable alcoholic — and that Labour had countered by suggesting Mr. Shamir secretly shakes from Parkinson's disease.

The squabbling goes well beyond broodlands between the two main parties hoping to lead the next government.

Religious parties that held the balance of power in the outgoing administration and have a long history of fueling took centre stage last week in the form of 95-year-old Rabbi Eliezer Schach.



Rabbi Schach, of the western Ashkenazim branch of ultra-Orthodox Jewry and a power in the United Tora Judaism Party which has a foothold in the Likud coalition, reopened one of Israel's most fundamental divisions by attacking oriental Sephardic Jews. "The Sephardim are returning

and developing ... But in the meantime they have a lot to learn. They are good, but they don't need to be in leadership," he told religious leaders.

Foreign Minister David Levy is a Sephardic Jew from a Moroccan family. He has built a political career on battling the European Jewish establishment which

has dominated Israel since its creation in 1948.

Rabbi Schach and his followers tried to soothe the anger of Sephardim, generally the poorer members of Israeli Jewish society, by saying the remarks were aimed at Sephardic Shas Party leaders. This inspired a fresh round of argument on radio, television and in newspaper.

It made a break from the battle between Labour and Meretz, the grouping of left-wing parties Labour will have to woo to form a narrow government if it noses in front of Likud in next week's vote.

Instead of battling Likud and the cluster of parties further to the right, Labour and Meretz have poured much of their effort into competing for the same voters — probably not a large enough group to help form a government.

Labour accused Meretz of planning "to be a parasite on Labour's back."

Mr. Rabin, appealing for all left-of-centre voters to unite against Likud, tried to minimise left bloc's importance by labelling it a "fringe" movement.

Likud has managed to suppress its internal competition for who will succeed 76-year-old Shamir, although one of his rivals may have leaked a report that Housing Minister Ariel Sharon had dismissed the 400,000 Soviet immigrants as ungrateful.

"This is a spoiled ally (immigration)," said Mr. Sharon, a native-born aspirant to the leadership who ran the housing programme for immigrants.

The rightist parties, which share a goal of keeping occupied Arab land but differ on tactics, have concentrated on attacking the left. But far-right parties have complained of a potential split vote because of a new entry

Californian separatist movement grows

By Mat Spethnick
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — As if California did not have enough problems with earthquakes, riots and recession, growing numbers of disgruntled voters now want to split the state.

Thirty-one of California's 58 counties voted on a split in the June 2 primary, and 27 responded with an overwhelming yes. It was a non-binding referendum, but California separatists are vowing to push a measure through the state legislature later this month to break up America's most populous state.

The idea has been heartily embraced by residents of the more rural north, who have long resented their wealthier and more politically influential southern neighbours.

"Who wouldn't want a divorce? When the budget is divided up, southern California has a feast and northern California gets the scraps," complained State Assemblyman Stan Statham, a northern Republican who is leading the separatist cause.

Supporters of the breakup say California, which has grown into a "mega-state" of 30 million people, has become virtually ungovernable. Northerners in particular say they are tired of being ruled by a huge state bureaucracy that is unresponsive to their needs.

Although relations between north and south have long been rocky, few people paid serious attention to the two-state idea when Mr. Statham proposed it in the legislature in January.

But the idea suddenly caught on in the overwhelmingly white counties of northern California after riots engulfed black and hispanic neighbourhoods of Los Angeles in April.

"Some people in the north see this as a chance to put some distance between themselves and the riots," said Mr. Statham, whose nine county district is closer to Canada than to Los Angeles.

Northern Californians have long viewed Los Angeles as an urban hell of smog, street gangs and overcrowded freeways. Even at its best, they say, southern California is too much Hollywood, too much Disneyland and too much glitz.

San Francisco columnist Herb Caen, who has elevated L.A.-bashing to an art form, recently reported sightings of a Los Angeles bumper sticker: "Cover me, I'm changing lanes."

Southerners view their northern neighbours as either country bumpkins or burnt-out hippies stuck in the 1960s.

Now, a growing number of Californians think it's time to stop the name-calling and get a divorce.

Mr. Statham envisions a breakaway state of northern California covering about 30 counties with no city larger than Sacramento, the present, sleepy state capital.

The problem is, now that the results of the advisory vote are in, Mr. Statham wonders whether two states will be enough.

It seems that San Franciscans were so appalled at Mr. Statham's original scheme to put them in the same state with despised Los Angeles they rejected the proposal on June 2.

So Mr. Statham says the San Francisco Bay area may be worthy of forming its own separate state — a third California.

If all this sounds like just another oddball California idea, it probably is, political experts say.

"Anybody who thinks California is headed for a breakup is simply fantasising," said Bruce Cain, a political scientist at the University of California at Berkeley.

Busting up the state would require not only the approval of a fractions legislature but of the U.S. Congress, which is in no mood to create a 51st or 52nd state.

The vote on the two-state proposal was taken mostly in rural counties of northern and central California. The 27 counties that supported it encompass nearly half of the state's land but less than 10 per cent of its population.

Most residents of California's politically powerful urban centres have yet to embrace the cause.

Still, the implausibility of the idea hasn't stopped the media from having a field day with it. The San Francisco Chronicle has cheekily proposed the marijuana plant as official flower of the new northern state, where pot is an important if illicit part of the economy.

European Community in turmoil, European union in doubt

By Sally Jacobson
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM — Like a family with a dark secret, European Community officials at first chose to ignore Denmark's rejection of their European union accord and press ahead with the plans anyway.

That strategy has not worked. The Danish vote against European union has clouded the outlook for the 12-nation trading bloc, raising fears of more rejections and questions about its future.

"The European Community is certainly in turmoil," said Jan Rood, EC specialist at the Clingendael Institute for International Affairs in the Hague, Netherlands.

Ireland is the next testing ground for the historic agreement to create a political, economic and monetary union, with a common foreign policy and a single currency, by 1999.

Irish voters will cast their ballots Thursday on the treaty negotiated last December in the Dutch town of Maastricht.

Since June 2, when Denmark became the first nation to reject the pact, surveys in Ireland have found support for the treaty to be slipping, making the outcome uncertain.

Some actions by the EC bureaucrats have not helped. Standardisation and health regulations affecting unpasteurised cheese and sausage, for instance, have caused resentment in France and Britain.

All 12 nations must ratify the Maastricht Treaty for it to go into effect in 1993.

"If Ireland votes 'no', then we'll have a real crisis on our hands," said Stanley Crossick, a

veteran consultant in Brussels. EC officials and analysts tend to attribute the Danish loss to voter reluctance to give up some national sovereignty to a fledgling EC federal government.

They also note recent electoral setbacks for governments in France, Germany and Italy uncovered voter unhappiness with parties in power.

As a result, there is unease about a French referendum expected next fall on the treaty. Some fear voters could use it to express displeasure with President Francois Mitterrand.

Germany's 16 states, worried about losing power to the community, have renewed threats to block ratification unless they are given more influence over European affairs.

More than 60 prominent German economists have criticised plans for a monetary union, declaring that it could lead to rising unemployment in poorer community nations.

Rejection of Maastricht by France or Germany, the cheerleaders for European union, would be fatal.

"The treaty would be dead," Mr. Rood said.

To help ease worries, Britain proposed adding a declaration to the accord placing limits on the powers of the EC executive agency and spelling out that the community could act only on matters national governments cannot handle. Germany and the Netherlands ruled that out.

Jacques Delors, EC chief executive, tried to mend fences on Wednesday by accepting part of the blame for the Danish debacle.

"We need to redouble our efforts in explaining ourselves," he told the European Parliament, the community's 518-seat legislature. "The debate on national sovereignty has to be cleared up."

Even so, he refused to back down from a request for a 31 per cent increase in the EC's budget over the next five years to pay the costs of union. Without more money, he said, there could be "stagnation or even crisis."

A day earlier, Britain, France and Germany, had rejected the high price tag for unity.

Their opposition may hurt chances for the treaty in the poorer nations of Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland, whose leaders were promised more money in exchange for backing the deal.

Mr. Delors, who has staked his reputation on the union and budget plans, may have been badly damaged by the turmoil.

EC leaders will decide later this month whether to give him another term as chief executive. Mr. Delors, a French Socialist, has held the job since 1983.

"Delors has been weakened," Mr. Rood said "but in the short term there is no alternative to Delors."

Some analysts say the community may have gone as far as it can towards union.

Mr. Rood said nations may decide to pick and choose among EC activities in the future, perhaps joining the monetary union but avoiding a common foreign policy. "Europe is a la carte," he said. "That's the way now."

U.S., Russia announce cuts

(Continued from page 1)

Naina. The Russian president kissed Mrs. Bush's hand, then waved and smiled at the assembled crowd of administration officials.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin had a full formal agenda, but the possibility that there might be live American war prisoners in Russia has threatened to overshadow the summit.

During his flight to Washington, Mr. Yeltsin was asked if some Americans held in Russia might be alive.

"Our archives have shown that it is true," Mr. Yeltsin was quoted as saying. "Some of them were transferred to the territory of the former USSR and were kept in labour camps. We don't have complete data and can only surmise that some of them may still be alive" (see page 3).

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, later said 2,800 U.S. citizens "found themselves on Soviet soil," after World War I, World II and Vietnam, and "many were held in prison."

U.S. signals desire for better ties

(Continued from page 1)

— An opinion-page newspaper article by a senior administration official, possibly National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, that could appear in a top U.S. daily and "set the record straight."

— An invitation to the next prime minister of Israel to visit Mr. Bush at his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine, with his

wife for a relaxed weekend. Obviously this idea would be more appealing if the weekend guest were Mr. Rabin rather than Mr. Shamir, whom Mr. Bush is known to dislike.

— Revisit the loan guarantee issue and try to come up with an accommodation under which Israel would start receiving money before the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 3.

Hostage release is delayed

(Continued from page 1)

end. Mr. Schmidbauer emerged from Mr. Hrawi's seaside presidential residence without taking custody of kidnapped relief workers Heinrich Strubeig and Thomas Kempfner.

They were reported to have

been handed over to Syrian officials in Beirut Monday night.

Still, Mr. Schmidbauer said, without elaboration, that the pair's ordeal "is hopefully coming to an end."

He told reporters: "I hope to be leaving with both hostages in the next 12 hours."

Israeli settlers are confident

(Continued from page 1)

occupied territory regardless of who wins the elections.

"The chances of the state of Israel continuing to belong to the family of nations while building settlements is zero," Mr. Gold said. "Over the next 10 years, the end of the settlement movement will come, either as a result of internal or external pressures."

Settlers' roadblock removed

Israeli troops and police on Tuesday removed 150 Jewish settlers who blocked a road in the occupied Gaza Strip to complain

that the military had failed to protect them from Palestinian attacks.

Military sources said six settlers were arrested at the blockade on the road where a settler rabbi was stabbed to death on May 27.

Settlers pitched a tent on the blum said. "Over the next 10 years, the end of the settlement movement will come, either as a result of internal or external pressures."

Two Palestinians were slain and a third was shot and seriously wounded in the latest of a persistent wave of attacks on alleged collaborators that defies pleas from Palestinian leaders.

Political group dissolves itself

(Continued from page 1)

the group's executive committee after months of negotiations with other political groups.

Political priorities change. Dr. Shaer said and called on "left of centre" political activists to unite and urge their parties to merge and form one major party.

"Now that political life in Jordan is blooming, political organisation and unity is even more essential than before," Dr. Shaer added. He urged members of his party's inner circle, estimated at about 200, to join other left-of-centre parties, that are still emerging out of the woods.

Political parties are expected to play a major role in the next legislative elections scheduled to be held in November 1993. Dr. Shaer made two unsuccessful bids for a seat in the Lower House of Parliament, first in the bye-elections in 1984 and again in 1989.

He named four political groupings for ex-DUA members to choose from. The four, all parties with similar goals and aims, are parties that Dr. Shaer says he has been trying to merge with since January of this year.

"We have tried on several occasions to create a merger between our party and these five groups, but it was too difficult. I have now taken the first initiative by dissolving our party — I consider it the beginning of a merger."

The four political groupings are the Unionist Liberals, the Jordanian National Democrats, the Arab Unionists and the Democratic Forum.

Political activists close to the left fear that the fragmentation of pan-Arab, liberal and leftist parties will sideline them in the overall political arena and will leave the door wide open for Islamic and rightwing political groupings, which are also increasing their political activity.

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Brotherhood protests 'ban'

(Continued from page 1)

fied violation of the Prophet's instructions to the faithful as he used to say: "Those who do not abide by my teachings would not be counted as my followers," the statement said.

It said the police action constituted a flagrant violation of the people's freedoms, including the right to worship as guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution.

"The worshippers were dismayed and shocked by this practice and disappointed by the unusual measure, and they have the right to be so because they had great hopes of freedom under Shura and democracy and are not to blame for feeling so," said the statement. It said the worshippers had to look for inconvenient places to perform the prayers invoking God's wrath on those who prevented them from praying in the open air.

"In light of this situation, the Muslim Brotherhood in true commitment to the Prophet's teachings and out of its keenness to respect the citizens' freedoms, including the freedom to worship, declares its open condemnation of these measures and of other orders that conflict with the teachings of Islam or deprive the citizens of their own freedoms," said the statement.

The Muslim Brotherhood praised mosque preachers for exercising self-restraint and said that the mosque preachers "foiled the objectives of those circles which had wanted to strike at the national interest in the name of protecting national interests, like they did at the Professional Association Complex in Amman, at the University Jordan and at Parliament House."

The movement also thanked provincial governors and police officers "who expressed understanding of the situation and did not insult the feelings of the worshippers and refrained from clashing with them."

The Muslim Brotherhood also denounced as contradictory to the Prophet's teachings those instructions, given to the police and decided to regard that incident as a "dark cloud marring the democratic process of Jordan."

Furthermore, the movement demanded that the government hold those responsible for the orders to account for their "provocations." The statement said that in some cases the fields intended for mass prayers were flooded with water and in some places were littered with garbage.

The statement said that in other cases the gates leading to those areas were shut and the loudspeakers installed there confiscated while posters with slogans offering 'Eid greetings to the worshippers were removed.

The statement said that at the same time Jordanian citizens continue to witness posters and advertisements filling the country about the Russian circus performing in Amman alongside advertisements about singers and entertainers performing during the 'Eid holiday.

The statement demanded that the government tackle urgent issues like "unemployment, the country's indebtedness, soaring prices, corruption in public administration, the increasing rate of crime, and the shortage of drinking water in the country instead of dealing with matters that are not related to national interest but rather tend to invoke God's wrath on society."

The statement demanded that police should direct their attention towards safeguarding security and preventing crime and putting an end to criminal actions and acts of corrupt people.

It said that "this Muslim country should lead others in protecting religious rites in the face of repeated attempts on the part of our neighbouring enemy who is intent on exploiting Biblical writings in a vindictive manner to serve his own interest."

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Ukraine leads in women's Chess Olympiad

MANILA (R) — Ukraine kept their lead in the women's competition of the 30th World Chess Olympiad in Manila despite losing one of their two adjourned matches against China Tuesday.

Second board Chinese player Wang Pin beat Marta Litinskaya to enable China to tie Ukraine in their seventh-round match, 1.5-1.5.

On the third board, Qin Kaiying drew with Irina Chelushkina at the resumption of their

adjourned seventh-round game. The mixed results gave Ukraine 16 points after seven rounds, a full point ahead of second-placed Georgia.

In the men's competition, front-running Russia face Ukraine in a key eight-round match.

The Russians showed their might Monday when they routed the United States, 3.5-0.5, with world champion Garry Kasparov

demolishing Soviet emigre Gata Kamsky in 41 moves.

The victory gave Russia 22.5 points after seven rounds, with the Netherlands in second place on 19 points.

Kasparov took advantage of several mistakes by Kamsky in the middle game to win his fourth straight match. "It seems that we are the winners of the Olympics," Russian team captain Yuri Razuvayev told reporters.

"We had a very bad day ... I lost the game in which I was fighting to win. I made several mistakes in the middle game," said a grim Kamsky.

At the resumption of adjourned seventh-round men's matches Tuesday, Lithuania beat Germany, 2.5-1.5, after Lithuanian Darius Ruzel drew with Vlastimil Hort.

Alexander Shabalov beat Boris Asanov to give Latvia a 2.5-1.5 win over Kazakhstan.

Arazi bubble bursts at Royal Ascot

ASCOT, England (R) — The Arazi bubble burst well and truly Tuesday when the one time super colt was beaten at Royal Ascot for the second race in succession.

Arazi, trained in France by Francois Boutin, started 11-10 favorite in the St. James's Palace Stakes but trailed in a poor fifth of the eight runners.

Seasoned sceptics began to wonder whether Arazi, once hailed as the best horse for 50 years, would ever see the race course again after this latest disappointment.

Victory in the Group 1 race went to 25-1 Irish trained outsider Brief Truce who prevailed in the final strides under jockey Michael Kinane to win by a short head from English trained Zaafi (8-1).

Third place, another one and a half lengths away, went to Ezzoud (6-1), the mount of English champion jockey Pat Eddery with Rodrigo de Triano finishing a disappointing fourth under Lester Piggott.

The race, billed in some quarters as one of the most important for years, was an ideal opportunity for both Arazi and Rodrigo de Triano to restore their battered reputations.

Arazi flopped in the Kentucky Derby in May and earlier this month Rodrigo de Triano proved a disappointing favourite in the Epsom Derby after earlier winning the English and Irish 2,000 Guineas.

Much was expected of the two colts on Tuesday as they reverted to what was commonly agreed was their best distance of one mile (1.6 kilometres).

But both horses again failed to reach expectations, disappointing the thousands of punters who had backed them.

Dermot Weld, trainer of the winner, said: "That was an excellent performance by my horse. Arazi and Rodrigo de Triano put up brilliant efforts at different stages in their careers but my horse is a later developer."

English fans fight Swedes in Stockholm beer tent

STOCKHOLM (R) — Organisers of a controversial beer tent for European Soccer Championship fans said Tuesday they would bar English supporters from the area after overnight fighting between local "skinheads" and hooligans from England.

"We simply cannot differentiate between good and bad Englishmen," the Swedish news agency (TT) quoted organiser Anders Carlberg as saying after the clash — the third involving English rowdies in Sweden for the eight-nation tournament.

"We have decided that no Englishmen will be allowed in to Gardet (park) over the next few days."

Swedish Radio also said English fans would be barred from the park on the outskirts of Stockholm where local soccer clubs and a youth organisation have set up a giant marquee with video games, dartboards, a mechanical bucking bronco and a karaoke disco. Beer and food are also on sale.

Police spokeswoman Ann-Sofi Engbladh said three Englishmen and a Swede had been detained during the midnight brawl between about 50 English supporters and local "skinheads" — Neo-Nazis with shaven heads — in the 5,000-capacity tent.

Two of the Englishmen and the Swede were expected to be charged later Tuesday with "violent rioting," an offence punishable by up to 10 years in prison. The third Englishman faces a different charge for refusing to show his passport.

A policeman was hurt and an English fan stabbed in the hand, but neither injury was serious.

The fighting flared hours after European Football Union (UEFA) President Lennart Johansson warned England it could lose the right to host the next tournament in 1996 if "criminal hooligans" continued to mar the finals.

English fans have now been involved in three successive nights of disturbances, the last two in the southern city of Malmö where England played their first two matches.

More than 100 Englishmen have been arrested or detained in the past week for various offences. Most have subsequently

been released but at least 28 people are still in custody, including six already charged with rioting.

A Norwegian in Malmö has been charged with the same offence.

The other soccer venues have been almost trouble free. Police reported no problems overnight in Malmö but said about 50 penniless English fans remained and it had not been decided what to do with them. There were no incidents in the other two venues, Gothenburg and Norrköping.

"The beer tent has been a big success in Gothenburg," said the city's police spokesman, Ake Akesson. "It was nice in Stockholm, too — until the English arrived."

"We are disappointed in Sweden because we treated them as human beings."

Critics say the tents act as a magnet for trouble and drinking, but officials say those bent on violence would find alcohol anyway.

The trouble appeared to bode ill for Wednesday's match between England and Sweden, their first meeting in Stockholm since police arrested 100 fans from each country in riots when the two teams played in the capital in 1989.

"All of a sudden people started throwing beer at each other," one worker in the Stockholm tent told Swedish radio.

Reporters saw hundreds of people flee the tent in fear before England supporters charged out and threw chairs, smashed the windows of a chamber van, rushed police and tried to wreck food and souvenir stalls.

Police initially left the scene to collect riot helmets but were back within minutes with reinforcements and dog handlers. The hooligans were dispersed after about half an hour.

UEFA's Johansson, a Swede, said: "We have to see what really happened and how many people were involved. If this goes on again and again then we will have had enough of it and have to reconsider the situation."

"I was wrongly quoted that this violence will cost England the 1996 Championship but they have to watch out."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day to tune in on what others have on the mind. Please those close to you by letting them know that you are willing to help organize and arrange the little affairs of everyday life.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make concrete those brilliant plans that you have been contemplating in the morning and then you can get into the actual work required to implement them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can do those things in the morning to make your home more as you and your family want it and then later take them out on the town.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A fine morning for discussing with usual associates the plan of action you wish to operate in the future, then later do the same at your residence.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You see ways to increase your holdings tremendously and then you can make arrangements with those able to help you bring this into being.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look for ways to really gain the many happy times that can bring you joy and then arrange the course necessary to put these good times in motion.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make a point to contact what-

ever friends or acquaintances who give you the backing you desire then you can handle the practical aspects of such aims.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your romantic attachment has good ideas for your mutual well-being, so go along with them, then you can be equally well informed by good companions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever brings you some advancement on gaining your own intimate desire can be gained now and then do the secret duties necessary for more job.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you require for adding to your weekly reputation is now at your fingertips to accept and progress while later go after more personal aims.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Let a stranger show you the way to growth and expand during the morning and later you see how you can utilize it in a public or career interest.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you have some promise you have made you can now carry through with it and get much satisfaction, praise; then be off to some new appealing matter.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Much conversation of an agreeable nature can bind an associate much more closely to you and then you can do something to show practical appreciation.

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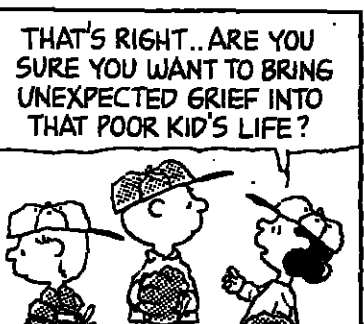
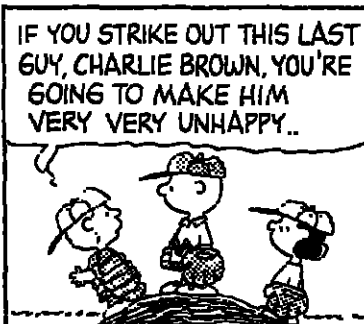
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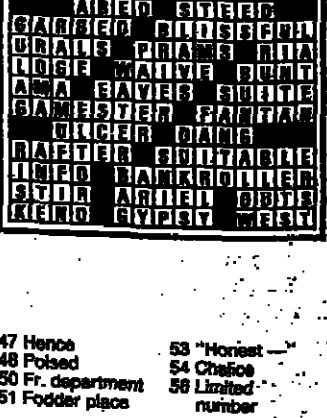
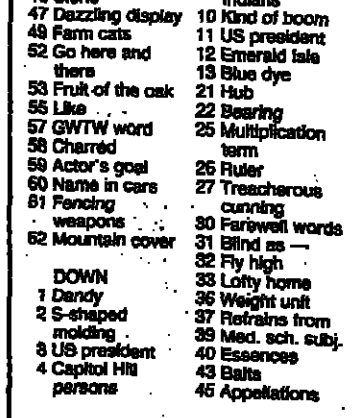
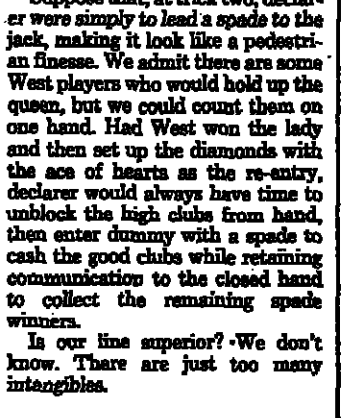
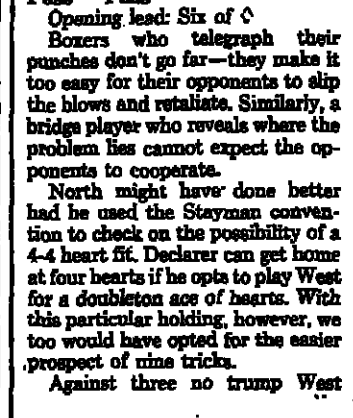
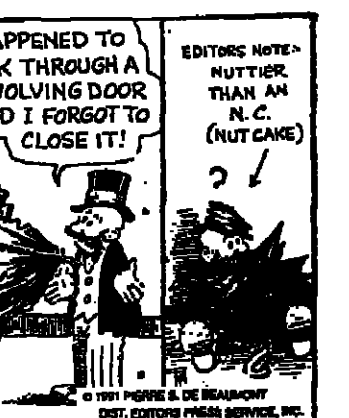
Andy Capp



Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH ©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

BEWARE OF GREEKS BEARING GIFTS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 7
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ Q 10 4
♣ 3 10 4

EAST
♠ Q 4 3
♥ A 10
♦ A J 8 6 4
♣ 8 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A K J 5
♥ K J 8 4
♦ K 9 7
♣ A K

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠
Bower, who telegraph their punches don't go far—they make it too easy for their opponents to slip the blows and retaliate. Similarly, a bridge player who reveals where the problem lies cannot expect the opponents to cooperate.

North might have done better had he used the Stayman convention to check on the possibility of a 4-4 heart fit. Declarer can get home at four hearts if he opts to play West for a doubleton ace of hearts. With this particular holding, however, we too would have opted for the easier prospect of nine tricks.

Against three no trump West

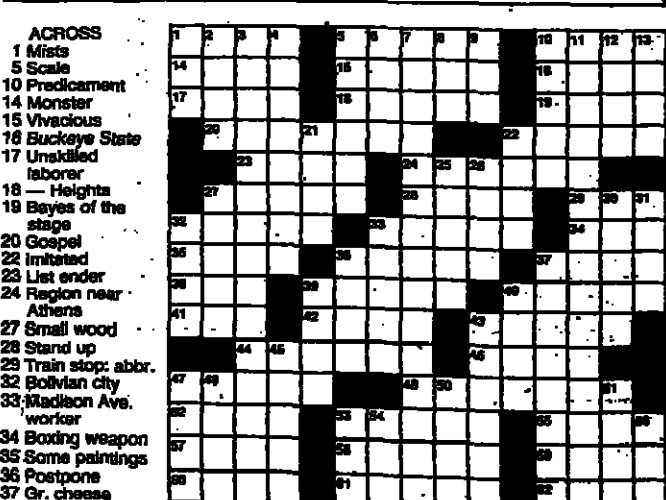
made the standard lead of fourth-best from longest and strongest, dummy's ten winning. With only five fast tricks available, declarer cashed the ace and king of clubs and then led the jack of spades from hand. It did not take a genius in the West seat to spot what evil was afoot—South was obviously trying to force an entry to the board. So West sacrificed a spade trick by refusing to win the queen. As a result declarer took four tricks in spades but ended up with only eight, scoring two diamonds and two clubs as well.

Declarer was too clever by half. Instead of trying something so transparent, normal play might have landed the contract.

Suppose that, at trick two, declarer were simply to lead a spade to the jack, making it look like a potshot at finesse. We admit there are some West players who would hold up the queen, but we could count them on one hand. Had West won the lady and then set up the diamonds with the ace of hearts as the re-entry, declarer would always have time to unblock the high clubs from hand, then enter dummy with a spade to cash the good clubs while retaining communication to the closed hand to collect the remaining spade winners.

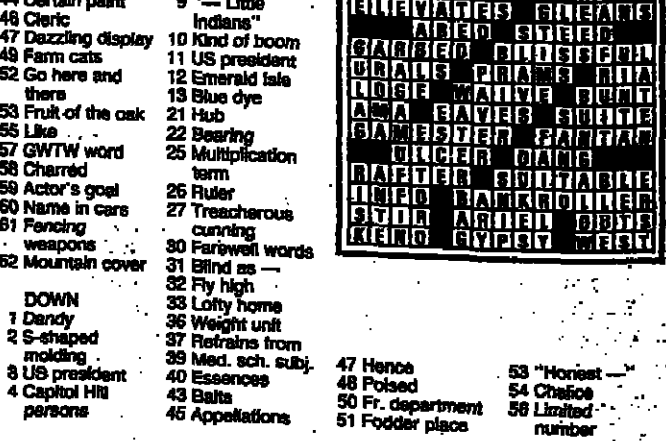
In our line superior? We don't know. There are just too many intangibles.

THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger



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Saturday's Puzzle Solvers:



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 15/6/92	TOKYO CLOSE 16/6/92
Sterling Pound	1.8568	1.8574
Deutsche Mark	1.5708	1.5768
Swiss Franc	1.4150	1.4208
French Franc	5.2905	5.3065**
Japanese Yen	126.83	127.00
European Currency Unit	1.3050	1.2996**

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.93	3.84
Sterling Pound	9.96	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.62
Swiss Franc	9.31	9.18
French Franc	9.96	9.87
Japanese Yen	4.73	4.59
European Currency Unit	10.43	10.43

Precious Metals		
Metal	UNIT	PRICE
Gold	342.25	6.6
Silver	4.12	0.00

Other Currencies		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.675	0.677
Sterling Pound	1.2508	1.2511
Deutsche Mark	0.4288	0.4309
Swiss Franc	0.4761	0.4785
French Franc	0.1273	0.1279
Japanese Yen	0.5322	0.5349
Dutch Guilder	0.3805	0.3824
Swedish Krona	0.1187	0.1193
Italian Lira	0.0567	0.0570
Belgian Franc	0.02007	0.02007

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market		
Index	9/6/92	16/6/92
All Share	143.97	143.01
Banking Sector	105.07	104.72
Insurance Sector	150.96	149.90
Industry Sector	198.71	196.81
Services Sector	182.35	181.64

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
Currency	15/6/92	16/6/92
One Sterling	1.8505/15	1.8505/15
One U.S. dollar	1.1962/67	1.1962/67
One Canadian dollar	1.5706/00	1.5706/00
One Australian dollar	1.7745/55	1.7745/55
One New Zealand dollar	1.4185/95	1.4185/95
One Hong Kong dollar	32.44/48	32.44/48
One Japanese yen	5.3025/75	5.3025/75
One Swiss franc	1192/1193	1192/1193
One French franc	126.90/70.00	126.90/70.00
One Italian lira	5.6820/70	5.6820/70
One Norwegian crown	6.1550/600	6.1550/600
One Danish crown	6.0600/50	6.0600/50
One ounce of gold	341.75/342.25	341.75/342.25

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

Currency	15/6/92	16/6/92
One Sterling	1.8505/15	1.8505/15
One U.S. dollar	1.1962/67	1.1962/67
One Canadian dollar	1.5706/00	1.5706/00
One Australian dollar	1.7745/55	1.7745/55
One New Zealand dollar	1.4185/95	1.4185/95
One Hong Kong dollar	32.44/48	32.44/48
One Japanese yen	5.3025/75	5.3025/75
One Swiss franc	1192/1193	1192/1193
One French franc	126.90/70.00	126.90/70.00
One Italian lira	5.6820/70	5.6820/70
One Norwegian crown	6.1550/600	6.1550/600
One Danish crown	6.0600/50	6.0600/50
One ounce of gold	341.75/342.25	341.75/342.25

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India seeks more Buddhist tourists

NEW DELHI (R) — Hindu India is spreading out its Buddhist past to entice Japanese tourists to the land where Gautama Buddha lived and preached 2,500 years ago.

In a promotion drive aided by Tokyo, Buddhist monuments all over the country are being spruced up to receive Japanese tourists, senior government officials said in interviews.

"The yen-rich Japanese tourist will be our most pampered guest in the next few years," said Prashant Mehta, a senior aide to the minister of tourism and civil aviation, Madhav Rao Scindia.

The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (OECF) is providing more than nine billion yen (\$70 million), more than half the projected cost for work on the monuments — some of which are in poor condition — plus additional hotel accommodation, the improvement of roads and landscaping.

Repayment will be spread over 20 years, at just 2.5 per cent interest.

One of the biggest projects is for the development of facilities around the Buddhist temples hewn out of rock in Ajanta and Ellora in the western state of Maharashtra.

The 30 Buddhist caves in Ajanta contain magnificent paintings, dating from between 200 B.C. and A.D. 650, depicting important events in the life of the Buddha, who was born a Hindu prince in what is now Nepal.

In nearby Ellora, there are more than 30 10th century man-made caves, 12 of which are exclusively Buddhist and were once inhabited by monks.

Last month Mr. Scindia announced an ambitious tourist action plan in parliament to boost India's dismal share — 0.4 per cent — of the global tourist trade to a more respectable one per cent in the next five years.

India proposes to lure Japanese holidaymakers by package tours to Buddhist holy places scattered through the two northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where the Buddha reached enlightenment and preached, and in Maharashtra.

Asha Moorthy, head of the ministry's special Japan Desk, said shrines and monuments alone were not enough to attract the Japanese.

"Japanese are fussy about food, and unless we can provide Japanese cuisine we cannot attract them," he said, adding that the government is encouraging hoteliers to import cooks from Japan or send chefs for training there.

Luxury coaches, hotel equipment and telecommunication facilities are being imported to cater to the Japanese.

The number of Japanese visiting India has never been large — 59,122 in 1990 being the record. Last year the numbers went down to 46,655.

Nearly half the Japanese coming to India are business travellers and Delhi wants to attract more of them too.

"We are gearing ourselves to meet the exacting requirements of Japanese executives, with Japanese cuisine, interpreters, improved communications with the outside world, and golf thrown in as bonus," said Mr. Moorthy.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The Nikkei average spent much of the day above 17,000 but closed at 16,953.53, up 0.3 of a point. "People are on the lookout for a fat supplementary budget, but can't move until they get a better idea what it will include," said Shigeru Akiba of UBS Phillips and Drew.

SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries Index slipped 7.6 points to 1,639.4. Brokers said weakness stemmed from the feeling that improvements in the macro-economic picture would take longer than expected to work their way into company profits.

HONG KONG — Hang Seng Index edged 27.68 points higher at 5,846.75. SINGAPORE — Banks gained ground. Shipyards finished lower. The Straits Times Industrials closed unchanged at 1,519.88.

BOMBAY — Brokers boycotted the exchange for a second day because of delay transferring shares sold by scandal-hit Harshad Mehta. There has been no trade since Wednesday when the BSE Index lost 13.43 points to 3,140.8.

FRANKFURT — German shares closed slightly firmer after hovering in a narrow five-point range. The Dax ended 5.20 points higher at 1,779.10.

ZURICH — Swiss shares ended a moderately active session firmer with lower money market rates, strong SMI futures and good performance on other European markets supporting sentiment. The SPI Index rose 7.7 to 1,188.3.

PARIS — French share prices ended higher in what dealers described as a technical bounce after falling six sessions in a row. The CAC 40 Index closed 13.27 points higher at 1,931.41.

LONDON — Shares closed sharply higher, drawing support from technical factors. The FTSE 100 Index added 22.7 points to close at 2,616.3.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips opened higher, boosted by the largest rise in housing starts in more than a year and mildly positive data on May industrial production and capacity utilisation. The Dow gained nine to 3364.

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More Americans seek bankruptcy protection

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans filed a record number of applications for bankruptcy protection during the first quarter of the year, the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) said Monday.

The institute said statistics from the administration office of the U.S. courts show that 252,733 individuals and businesses filed for protection from January through March, up from 230,723 during the first three months of 1991. Still, the 9.5 per cent increase was well below the 20.5 per cent advance during the same quarter of 1991.

Mr. Sam Gerdano, the ABI executive director, said the increase places increased pressures on already "dangerously overloaded" bankruptcy courts. "The continued upward spiral of filings will wreak havoc in both the legal system and in the credit markets," Mr. Gerdano warned.

The ABI said business filings for the quarter totalled 18,760, a 5.3 per cent increase from a year ago. Non-business filings totalled 233,973, up 9.8 per cent from 1991.

The strike was the second called by leftist political parties and trades unions since the Congress Party regained power in elections last June and promptly set about dismantling the bureaucratic controls under which the economy had been run.

The reforms, implemented more rapidly and reaching further than anyone had expected, are intended to switch India to an open market economy.

That, the government says, will mean some degree of privatisation and job cuts in the bloated and frequently loss-making public sector. It has promised that any worker who loses his job will be compensated and retrained.

Independent analysts say the reform programme and senior government politicians say it is more about politics than economics.

Even in Calcutta, there were disputes about the effectiveness of the strike.

Pro-Congress union leader Suprat Mukherjee said it had not been a total success despite early deserted streets in the normally teeming metropolis and thousands of people trapped at the railway station without transport.

He told Reuters about 40 per cent of workers had turned up for duty in the city's industrial belt and that the busy port was functioning.

In Madras, officials said the port was functioning there with about 90 per cent of the workforce turning up.

Police disputed an assertion by Communist Party official G. Udayakumar that 90 per cent of the workers in and around the city had joined the strike.

Senior police official Walter Dawaram said between 60-70 per cent of the workers had turned up at their factories.

He said 1,400 more people were detained Tuesday in Tamil Nadu, of which Madras is the capital, for "attempting to disrupt normal life." Some 12,000 people had been detained in advance of the strike.

Another senior police official, Swarnabandran Spinal, said the strike in the state had been largely peaceful, although there had been some stone-throwing and one truck had been set ablaze.

In Bombay, India's financial and commercial capital, state-owned banks and insurance companies were closed, but foreign banks remained open and the city generally went about its normal business as commuter trains and buses functioned normally.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has pleaded for the U.S. Congress to speed approval of aid to former Soviet republics.

"Never since the end of World War II have we seen such an urgent need for international cooperation," said Michel Camdessus, the Frenchman who is managing director of the fund.

Mr. Camdessus recalled that contributions to the fund from more than 160 other member countries depend on congressional approval of \$12 billion the U.S. government agreed to put up two years ago. The money, which would remain U.S. property, is

part of an international pledge of \$60 billion to increase the fund's lending resources.

Mr. Camdessus pointed out that in addition to the former Soviet republics, 30 other countries are looking to the fund for aid.

Bills to provide this and other foreign aid now have the approval of committees in both houses of the U.S. Congress, despite considerable public opposition to increases in U.S. foreign aid.

Jeffrey Sachs, a U.S. adviser to the Russian government said that misunderstandings between Russia and the IMF had led to a "crisis of spirit" in Russia. The fund is negotiating with the Russians on conditions of aid.

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BIS urges structural reform, crisis management

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Policy-makers must persist with structural reforms to ensure they can handle future financial crises, even as major economies emerge from recession, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said Monday.

BIS General Manager Alexandre Lamfalussy said in concluding remarks at the end of the bank's annual report that better training and the elimination of structural rigidities had improved the functioning of labour markets.

"But much still remains to be done before unemployment rates (can) fall to earlier levels," he added.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is forecasting overall unemployment of 7.5 per cent among its 24 member countries this year, falling slightly to 7.3 per cent in 1993.

The report by the Basle-based BIS, which acts as a central bank to central banks, said real growth in the industrial world averaged just 0.9 per cent in 1991, its weakest since 1982, and the average jobless rate rose for the first time in eight years.

Mr. Lamfalussy urged faster progress by governments in reforming agricultural policies, which on average involved costs of almost two per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in OECD countries.

He said more investment was needed in infrastructure projects, which in several countries had suffered from badly targeted cuts in public spending.

On the task facing monetary authorities, Mr. Lamfalussy said they had to make sure their ability to cope with crises kept pace with the "rapidly changing landscape of globally integrated and innovative financial markets."

A special chapter on financial supervision said the 1987 and 1989 stock price crashes had shown how easily and quickly market shocks could be transmitted across borders.

But Mr. Lamfalussy argued that if the right lessons were drawn, there was "no reason to fear that distortion on the financial side will continue to seriously hamper economic recovery."

The report did not give an estimate for this year's growth, saying the speed and breadth of recovery was hard to predict.

But it said there was growing evidence the United States was moving out of recession and that other countries would follow.

The OECD is forecasting 1.8 per cent overall growth in the OECD area this year, rising to three per cent in 1993.

Mr. Lamfalussy said most governments probably would not want to use fiscal policy to stimulate their economies, given past

unhappy experience of rising public sector budget deficits.

Reiterating a warning he made last year, he said central banks should not try to provide a monetary stimulus because of the danger that this could stoke inflation.

Mr. Lamfalussy took aim at Germany for its inflation problems, which have caused the Bundesbank to tighten monetary policy and helped keep real interest rates high throughout western Europe.

"Bringing Germany's emerging inflationary tendencies under control, by reverting to the best German traditions, is of major importance not only for Germany itself and the rest of Europe, but also for the world economy," he said.

Turning to the former Soviet republics, he said they must guard against creating barriers to mutual trade, place the price mechanism firmly at the centre of their economies, and bring fiscal and monetary policies under control.

Much the same applied to other eastern European countries, where he noticed unfortunate signs of "reform fatigue." The best help industrial countries could offer former communist as well as developing nations was free access to their markets, he said.

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Anti-reform strike hits India

NEW DELHI (R) — One person was killed Tuesday during a strike by millions of leftist Indian workers against deep economic reforms they fear could cost huge numbers of jobs, officials said.

Reports from around the country suggested the strike, marred by scattered violence, was only partially successful outside West Bengal, where it was supported by the Marxist government, one of the most vociferous opponents of reform.

West Bengal Information Minister Buta Dev Bhattacharya told Reuters in Calcutta, the state capital, that one member of a communist trade union was killed in a clash with workers supporting the federal Congress-Party government.

He said the communist unionists were trying to enforce the strike at a tea estate when pro-Congress workers turned up to stop them.

Elsewhere, there were reports of stone-throwing and occasional police intervention with tear-gas to defuse confrontations between pro- and anti-strikers. However there appeared to have been none of the large-scale violence which often accompanies Indian strikes.

The 12 million strikers, most of them from state-run industries where leftist unions are strong, brought banks, insurance companies, domestic air travel and other industries to a virtual halt in many places.

The strike was the second called by leftist political parties and trades unions since the Congress Party regained power in elections last June and promptly set about dismantling the bureaucratic controls under which the economy had been run.

The reforms, implemented more rapidly and reaching further than anyone had expected, are intended to switch India to an open market economy.

That, the government says, will mean some degree of privatisation and job cuts in the bloated and frequently loss-making public sector. It has promised that any worker who loses his job will be compensated and retrained.

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Senior police official Walter Dawaram said between 60-70 per cent of the workers had turned up at their factories.

He said 1,400 more people were detained Tuesday in Tamil Nadu, of which Madras is the capital, for "attempting to disrupt normal life." Some 12,000 people had been detained in advance of the strike.

Another senior police official, Swarnabandran Spinal, said the strike in the state had been largely peaceful, although there had been some stone-throwing and one truck had been set ablaze.

In Bombay, India's financial and commercial capital, state-owned banks and insurance companies were closed, but foreign banks remained open and the city generally went about its normal business as commuter trains and buses functioned normally.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has pleaded for the U.S. Congress to speed approval of aid to former Soviet republics.

"Never since the end of World War II have we seen such an urgent need for international cooperation," said Michel Camdessus, the Frenchman who is managing director of the fund.

Mr. Camdessus recalled that contributions to the fund from more than 160 other member countries depend on congressional approval of \$12 billion the U.S. government agreed to put up two years ago. The money, which would remain U.S. property, is

part of an international pledge of \$60 billion to increase the fund's lending resources.

Mr. Camdessus pointed out that in addition to the former Soviet republics, 30 other countries are looking to the fund for aid.

Bills to provide this and other foreign aid now have the approval of committees in both houses of the U.S. Congress, despite considerable public opposition to increases in U.S. foreign aid.

Jeffrey Sachs, a U.S. adviser to the Russian government said that misunderstandings between Russia and the IMF had led to a "crisis of spirit" in Russia. The fund is negotiating with the Russians on conditions of aid.

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Armenia says Russia, U.S. soft on Azerbaijan Azeri offensive bogs down

MOSCOW (R) — A five-day Azeri offensive to recapture some territory in Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenian forces appeared bogged down along the eastern edge of the mountain enclave Tuesday, reports from the area said.

Officials in both Armenia and Azerbaijan, reached by telephone, said a lull had settled over much of the disputed enclave and along the volatile border areas between the two former Soviet republics.

Hussein Makhmudov, press officer at the Azeri Defence Ministry, said gunbattles were raging in the Armenian-populated Shumyan Valley, just inside Azerbaijan proper.

"But it is relatively quiet in all other directions," he said.

Armenian defence officials shared that assessment but said their forces had recaptured several settlements seized in the Azeri offensive.

Spokesman Gegam Arutunyan said Armenian forces had surrounded one Azeri-held settlement and were moving in steadily. Fighting also continued around Nakhichevanik, which has traded hands in the last few

days.

"There were no real changes overnight," Mr. Arutunyan said. As many as 2,000 people have been killed in more than four years of fighting over the predominantly Armenian enclave, which sits inside Azerbaijan.

An Armenian offensive last month effectively broke the last remnants of Azeri control, confounding international mediation efforts and setting the stage for last week's counter-attack.

The continuing violence cast a shadow over 11-nation talks, which opened in Rome Monday under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to try to end the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia, pressing for an immediate ceasefire in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh Tuesday accused Moscow and Washington of not putting sufficient pressure on Azerbaijan to end its latest offensive.

The chief Armenian delegate to the 11-nation peace talks in Rome said the international community seemed to be more concerned with saving its own credi-

bility in the crisis than putting an end to the fighting.

"Moscow and Washington are not being firm enough with Azerbaijan," Christian Der Stepanian told Reuters. "There is a lack of political will to tackle really urgent problems in an emergency situation where there are massacres and deportations."

He said that for the sake of getting Azerbaijan to the negotiating table and thus saving a peace conference due to start in the Belarusian capital Minsk on June 23, the two "risked awarding the best marks to the worst students."

Mr. Der Stepanian, a diplomatic adviser to Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian, also accused Turkey of showing bias and systematically taking Azerbaijan's side in the Rome talks.

Turks and Azeris speak a similar language and share a common religion, Islam, although most Turks are Sunni Muslims whereas Azeris tend to be Shiites, like their Iranian neighbours.

The Armenian diplomat said he might ask for Ankara's exclusion from the talks unless Turkey ended what he called its "extreme

partiality."

Asked why he thought Washington was being soft on Azerbaijan, he said the top U.S. priority in the region was to contain the spread of Islamic fundamentalism from Iran.

Because Washington was counting on Ankara's help to counter-balance Iranian influence in Central Asia, the United States was also tending to give great weight to the views of Turkey on other regional issues, he said.

The Rome negotiations, now in their second round, represent the last chance of summoning an international peace conference in Minsk to try to solve one of the bloodiest and most intractable ethnic conflicts of the old Soviet empire.

"We are not optimistic. It is much more the credibility of the countries involved that is at stake (here) than human suffering. That worries us," he said, insisting that the top priority should be to negotiate an immediate ceasefire.

The Rome talks are a major test of CSCE's ability to mediate in conflicts following the failure to avert war in the former Yugoslav-

Moscow probes report of one live U.S. POW

WASHINGTON (R) — Moscow is looking into an unconfirmed report that a U.S. prisoner of war remains locked inside a Russian jail after more than 40 years of captivity, Russian officials said Monday.

The possibility that one of the thousands of Americans seized by Moscow after World War II may still be living was raised at a wide-ranging news conference held to divulge Soviet secrets.

Among the secrets said to be detailed in newly declassified papers: Proof Lenin was a "bloodthirsty" murderer, that Moscow sent stolen diamonds to foreign communists and that one-time Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev supported terrorism.

"There's one unconfirmed that there is still one more American (prisoner of war, or POW) incarcerated in our country. I can't confirm or deny this report right now but I am working on it," Dmitri Volkogonov, an adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, told reporters.

Mr. Volkogonov is heading investigations into the fate of Americans who vanished inside the Soviet prison system some 40 to 50 years ago. He unveiled his findings as Yeltsin headed to Washington for meetings with President George Bush, who has praised Mr. Yeltsin's effort to track the fate of POWs.

"I think I will be able to answer this question by the end of the month," said Mr. Volkogonov, who has spent months delving into KGB, Kremlin and Communist Party vaults.

Russian archivist Rudolph Pikhoya would give no further details about the whereabouts of World War II soldiers, but said "the evidence that exists is not of an archival type."

In a letter released by U.S. senators last Friday, Mr. Yeltsin said more than 23,000 U.S. citizens were brought into the Soviet Union by the Red Army at the end of World War II.

A total of 22,554 were repatriated in 1945 and 1946, but an unspecified number never returned, Mr. Yeltsin said.

As of Aug. 1, 1953, eight downed U.S. crew members were held in the Soviet Union, Mr. Yeltsin added.

The archivists, whose previously secret material goes on show at the Library of Congress this week, also disclosed damaging evidence about former Soviet presidents.

Mr. Pikhoya accused Mr. Gorbachev of practicing a "double moral standard: 'Turning a human face to the West while 'on the other hand advocating terrorism.'"

He would give no more details, but said the archivists' findings would embarrass the last Soviet president.

Mr. Yeltsin said Monday that American prisoners of war from the Vietnam War were transferred to the Soviet Union and kept in labour camps, and that some of them still may be alive.

Sarajevo truce holds, boosting airlift plan

BELGRADE (Agencies) — A ceasefire in Serb-besieged Sarajevo stabilised early Tuesday, bolstering elaborate U.N. preparations for an emergency aid airlift to civilians caught in Bosnia-Herzegovina's ethnic conflict.

A United Nations convoy set out from Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital, for Sarajevo with a contingent of military observers to be stationed around Sarajevo airport as part of a plan to reopen it for relief flights — provided the truce holds.

"The truce is really holding. This was the quietest night we've had since the war began," Sarajevo Radio editor Zoran Petrovic said 24 hours after the ceasefire between Serbs and their mostly Muslim and Croat enemies took effect.

Only light small arms fire and brief, intermittent shelling of no consequence was reported overnight, allaying fears of a relapse into full-blown war after heavy gunfire and sniper attacks Monday.

Sarajevo Radio said two people were killed and 10 wounded by sniping after the U.N.-mediated truce, intended to reopen the airport without disengaging rival forces — a much trickier task — took effect at 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) Monday.

Canadian General Lewis MacKenzie, chief U.N. negotiator in Sarajevo, continued talks with the warring sides on turning over the Serb-held airport to U.N. peacekeeping forces and creating a demilitarised zone around it.

Local journalists said Serb irregulars were refusing to retreat more than five kilometres from the airport, while Bosnian Territorial Defence Forces were demanding a 20-kilometre-wide demilitarised strip.

Some 300,000 Sarajevo civilians have almost run out of food and medicine after a prolonged siege by ethnic Serbs who revolted against a Muslim-Croat vote to take Bosnia-Herzegovina republic out of the Serb-led Yugoslav Federation in March.

More than 5,800 people have been killed and one million driven from their homes in the fighting throughout Bosnia.

The United Nations has admitted Bosnia as a member and clamped a trade embargo on Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav Republic, for allegedly supporting the revolt by Bosnian Serbs.

The U.N. Security Council was due to meet shortly to assess a

new peacekeepers' report on Sarajevo's situation. It could authorise 1,000 Canadian troops to secure the airport if it deems the truce durable.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic expressed doubt the truce would hold and asked the Security Council Tuesday to approve air raids on Serb strongholds to break the siege.

Western governments view armed intervention only as a last resort if U.N. sanctions do not bring the combatants to heel.

Anti-war protests have proliferated in Serbia since the embargo took effect. On Monday, more than 10,000 students "ricaded themselves inside the Belgrade university building to demand President Slobodan Milosevic's resignation and the formation of a national salvation government."

Some Serbians hope the appointment Monday of Dobrica Cosic, 70, as Yugoslav president will help head off violence and possible civil war over Bosnia's bloodshed.

Mr. Cosic won popularity by championing Serbian nationalist causes but in his inaugural speech he pledged to make democratic changes. He gave no details.

The United States, the European Community (EC) and Nordic countries Monday questioned the legitimacy of truncated, Serb-dominated Yugoslavia as the successor to the former Yugoslav Federation in the United Nations.

But there was no move to oust the recently declared Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from the world body and its agencies. Diplomats said a formal challenge could come at a later date.

The U.N. Security Council has imposed sweeping economic sanctions against Yugoslavia, which it blames for the Serbian aggression against newly independent Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On Monday Mary Ann Potter Stewart, head of the U.S. delegation, told the executive board of the U.N. Children's Fund, UNICEF, that participation of the Yugoslavia in the session raised questions about Yugoslavia's status as a member of the board.

Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that because of the Serbian aggression against Bosnia the United States does not think the new Yugoslav state qualifies as a peace-loving U.N. member state and should not automatically take over Yugoslavia's seat.

Major to press allies for Rio follow-up plan

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major has said he would ask the European Community and group of seven leading industrial nations to adopt an action plan to carry forward Earth Summit environmental agreements.

Mr. Major reporting to parliament on his visit to the summit last week, said governments had already gone a long way towards achieving a cleaner, safer world but the progress made at the

conference in Rio de Janeiro must continue.

Meanwhile, Japan missed a chance to play the leading environmental role at the Earth Summit that many had hoped, but diplomats and environmentalists say Tokyo is moving in that direction.

Japan had planned a major announcement at the summit, but Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa failed to show up because of domestic problems.

Bush confident of avoiding deadlocked election

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush scoffed at the possibility of a deadlocked presidential race, but said there was a chance "in a crazy year like this" that his Republican Party would win control of Congress from Democrats.

In a wide-ranging interview broadcast live on Cable News Agency Network, Mr. Bush also said he might try some unorthodox campaign communication tactics in his bid for reelection.

Asked if he would go on popular TV talk shows and take questions from viewers like Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, the certain Democratic nominee, and Texas tycoon Ross Perot, a likely independent challenger, Mr. Bush replied that he might.

"I might give that a try ... I think it's good to take some questions and to be out there on the front line," he said.

But he drew the line at using a toll-free telephone number like Mr. Perot to try to woo votes, saying that was "a little beneath the dignity of the White House."

Mr. Bush talked briefly about election-year politics while fielding questions that centred mainly on his summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, an event that he hopes will remind Americans of his foreign-policy credentials.

Some current polls indicate that Mr. Perot would defeat Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton if the Nov. 3 general election were held today.

This has led some analysts to speculate that no candidate will carry enough states to win, tossing the election into the House of Representatives. That has not happened since 1824.

Asked if he thought the presidential race would deadlock, Bush flatly replied: "No."

"In the final analysis, people are going to say, 'Who do I want to sit in that Oval Office (in the White House)? Who do I want to trust?'" he said.

Mr. Bush said he was optimistic voters would conclude that he deserved a second four-year term because of his experience and his willingness "to make decisions that might not be popular or might draw the fire of the editorialist or ... the network man."

All 435 House seats and one-third of the 100 Senate seats are at stake in the autumn election.

But since the Democratic Party has lapsed majorities in both bodies, most political experts believe it would be virtually impossible for Mr. Bush's fellow Republicans to win control of the legislative branch.

Asked if the experts could be wrong, Mr. Bush replied: "Sure, in a crazy year like this, absolutely."

"You see the numbers of people that are leaving the House, you see the disrepute that the Congress is in, and the minds of the American people. I wouldn't write off anything," he said.

The White House announced Monday that Mr. Bush would make a political trip to California and Texas immediately after his meeting with Mr. Yeltsin. He will start the trip Thursday and return to Washington Saturday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Perot is getting a temporary free ride from his two major-party rivals.

Both President Bush and Mr. Clinton passed up chances Monday to attack the Dallas bil-

Mandela leads march in Soweto

SOWETO, South Africa (R) — Anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela led a march through Soweto Tuesday to start two weeks of political strikes and boycotts to force the white South Africa government to hand over power to blacks.

Mr. Mandela, smiling broadly and dressed in a black track suit and baseball cap, led a subdued crowd of 2,000 people through the quiet streets of the township's Mofolo North area on his way to open the pro-democracy campaign at a mass rally.

Police said 23 people were killed in overnight political unrest before Tuesday's national Soweto Day work boycott, the anniversary of the 1976 anti-apartheid student uprising in which hundreds of black youths were killed by police.

This year the annual rallies marking the most emotional day of the anti-apartheid calendar also start a programme of street protests aimed at pressing the white government to speed up a move to democracy after four decades of apartheid segregation.

Small groups of residents gathered on doorsteps and at garden gates as Mandela, president of the African National Con-

gress, ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa and Communist Party Chairman Joe Slovo led the largely silent marchers through the township towards a memorial to the dead of the 1976 uprising.

President F.W. de Klerk has called strikes and marches untimely and provocative and mobilised tens of thousands of white reservists to keep the peace.

"The government will not be intimidated by the present threats or any actions flowing from the reform," he said.

The ANC appealed to white military reservists to refuse the call-up, saying the move could permanently harm race relations.

Most train and bus services around the country ran almost empty as blacks observed the strike or prepared to attend 70 ANC Soweto Day rallies. SAPA, the South African Press Association news agency said.

More than a million blacks normally observe the Soweto Day "stayaway," as political strikes in South Africa are known.

Jack Visser, a senior executive of the National Putco Bus Company, said Johannesburg area services were cut to a trickle. "This



Nelson Mandela

situation is in line with previous stayaways," he said.

Streets in Johannesburg townships including Soweto were almost deserted. In Johannesburg itself, Durban and Bloemfontein, the number of minibus taxis used by blacks were well down on normal levels.

In the capital Pretoria, residents estimated the strike had been observed by 70 per cent of black workers, SAPA reported.

Mexico protests U.S. court decision

MEXICO CITY (R) — The government Monday halted all anti-drug cooperation with the United States to protest a U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the abduction of a Mexican doctor to stand trial in the death of a drug agent.

The court, ruling in the abduction of Dr. Humberto Alvarez-Machain, said U.S. agents were allowed to seize suspects in foreign countries. Dr. Alvarez-Machain is accused of involvement in the 1985 torture slaying of drug agent Enrique Camarena.

The government banned all activities by U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents in Mexico until further notice. It said Mexican agents in the United States also will halt work.

A statement by the Foreign Affairs Department called for talks to set new, clear-cut ground rules for cooperation between the two nations in the drug fight. It implied the ban will last until such an agreement is reached.

The U.S. High Court decision is "invalid and unacceptable" and Mexico will consider any attempt to capture suspects on its territory "a criminal act," the statement said.

"DEA agents commissioned in Mexico, as of this date, will not be able to carry out the activities they were authorised to, until new criteria of cooperation are determined," it said.

It emphasised that such criteria will have "to guarantee respect of our juridical system and the complete safeguard of national sovereignty."

Asian victims denounce Japanese troops bill

HONG KONG (R) — Some Asian victims of Japanese colonial aggression, wincing at the news that Tokyo will again be able to send troops overseas, have warned it against trying to regain its World War II military might.

Other regional countries stayed silent as the peacekeeping operations bill, allowing Japan to send soldiers overseas for the first time since 1945, finally became law Monday.

And the Philippines said bitter memories of wartime occupation had been erased by images of a "kinder, gentler Japan."

North Korea, which invaded South Korea five years after the end of World War II, condemned the law Tuesday as a plot by Tokyo to match its economic clout with political and military power.

Singapore warned Japan not to try to reestablish its military might. In Hong Kong, World War II veterans denounced the new law as the thin end of a wedge which could lead to resurgence of militarism.

The Japanese opposition, which battled in vain for 20 months to stop the bill, says it infringes the United States-drafted constitution which bans the sending of international disputes by military force.

The Legislation means that up to 2,000 Japanese troops will be able to serve in U.N. peacekeeping missions, on the strict condition that they are not used in combat.

Japan's opposition Socialists failed to halt the government's troops deployment bill, but may have boosted their chances in July national elections.

"The Socialists have gained nothing directly from their delaying tactics," said Tokai University Professor Rei Shiratori. "But they scored a point by making apathetic voters aware of the issues on the peacekeeping operations (PKO) bill."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Communist Party 'expels' Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — The outlawed Communist Party has expelled former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, even though he resigned as party leader shortly after last August's coup, a news agency reported Monday. Mr. Gorbachev, the former party general secretary, was expelled for "the ruin of the party and the state and betrayal of the interests of working people," according to a resolution adopted at a meeting Saturday. The resolution was carried in a story by the ITAR-TASS News Agency. Russian President Boris Yeltsin last year banned the Communist Party and confiscated most of its assets. A constitutional court will consider the legality of his decree later this month.

Suspected IRA bomb explodes in London

LONDON (R) — A bomb left in a hijacked taxi exploded in central London early Tuesday, marking a new twist to the Irish guerrilla campaign to sow fear and disruption on the British mainland. Police said they believed the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was responsible for the bomb, which went off near Piccadilly Circus shortly after midnight, causing damage to buildings but no injuries. It was the first time on the mainland that the IRA had delivered a bomb in a hijacked vehicle, one of its favourite tactics in Northern Ireland. Taxis and telephone engineers' vans are preferred. Tuesday's explosion was the third Irish bomb attack in London in nine days and highlighted the difficulty security services face in combating the wide variety of terror tactics employed by a small but dedicated number of guerrillas.

Ex-minister kidnapped in Togo

LOME (R) — A former Togolese minister was still missing after he was kidnapped from his home Sunday night, the government said. M'ba Kabesema's wife Felicie, who witnessed the abduction, said her husband was beaten and taken away by a soldier, the statement from Prime Minister Joseph Kokou Koffigoh's office added. Mr. Kabesema was a former commerce minister and director-general of the Togolese Phosphates Office (OTP) under the one-party regime of President Gnassingbe Eyadema. He became a celebrity at last year's national conference, which stripped Mr. Eyadema of much of his power, when he accused the president of diverting OTP funds for his own use. Mr. Koffigoh's statement appeared to suggest that Mr. Eyadema loyalists in the armed forces may have abducted Mr. Kabesema.

Major drawn into Maxwell thriller

LONDON (R) — The life and death story of Robert Maxwell turned a new page with Prime Minister John Major drawn into claims the government spied on the media tycoon and should have known he was weaving a web of fraud. Senior government officials denied Mr. Major ever saw any intelligence about Mr. Maxwell, who had been allegedly targeted by British spymasters for electronic surveillance two years before he died last November. "We can find nothing to substantiate that either the Prime Minister or other ministers saw any information from intelligence on Maxwell," one senior government source said.

Ramos to meet Imelda Marcos

MANILA (R) — General Fidel Ramos, the apparent victor in Philippine presidential elections, has said he would soon sit down for his first serious meeting with the widow of the dictator he ousted six years ago. The former defence secretary said the meeting with Imelda Marcos, widow of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos, was still being arranged.

COLUMN

Bruce Springsteen opens world tour in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Stockholm was "lucky town" for 15,500 Bruce Springsteen fans as he opened his first tour in four years. It was the same old rock 'n' roll, but the older "boss" seemed wiser, and happier. "A lot has happened to me in the last few years. I learned a lot of lessons," Springsteen told the crowd. He opened with Better Days, off his new Lucky Town album, then brought the audience to its feet with the old favourite Born in the USA. The three-hour concert continued in the new-and-old-mix vein. Musically, the most noticeable change was the absence of Clarence Clemons and his saxophone. Springsteen's new Lucky Town and Human Touch albums were the first in 10 years he had made without the E Street Band, and the tour of Sweden, Germany, France and Britain was his first without the band. The working-class, regular-guy persona of earlier days was there, but relationships figured more prominently than highway cruising in the lyrics. Since his last European tour, in the summer of 1988, Springsteen, 42, has also changed wives — his new wife, backup singer Patty Scialfa, joined him onstage twice. They have two children and have moved from New Jersey to Los Angeles.

Some Serbians hope the appointment Monday of Dobrica Cosic, 70, as Yugoslav president will help head off violence and possible civil war over Bosnia's bloodshed.

Spike Milligan gets CBE

LONDON (R) — Zany comedian and author Spike Milligan, best-known for his work with the Goons Radio Show in the 1950s and 1960s, was appointed an honorary Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth II. Milligan, 74, was the main writer of the Goons, in which he performed with the late Peter Sellers and comedian-singer Harry Secombe. His anarchic, offbeat style set a pattern for much subsequent British comedy. The award was in recognition of Milligan's services as a writer, broadcaster and entertainer and his involvement with the environment, children's safety and mental health, according to its citation. Milligan, who lives in London, was born in India to an Irish father and a British mother. Much to his anger Britain refused him a passport and he has remained an Irish citizen, meaning he could only be given an honorary title.

You spell potato, Quayle spells potatoe

TRENTON, New Jersey (AP) — Vice President Dan Quayle puzzled elementary school students at a spelling bee he held for them during a visit Monday when he misspelled the word potato. He could have, spell president. On his second word, Mr. Quayle made a young boy misspell the word potato. The boy went to the blackboard in a classroom at Rivers Elementary School, wrote "potato" and then was told by Mr. Quayle he was missing a letter. When the puzzled boy added an "e," making the word "potatoe," Mr. Quayle praised him for the amazement of a crowd of reporters. The vice president was reading an incorrect spelling on a handwritten flash card he was using. The blunder followed the correct spelling of the first word of Mr. Quayle's speech: President. Quayle drew chuckles as he gave students an example of how the word is used while one of them wrote on the board. "The president always tells the vice president what to do," he said.

World's tiniest baby is now breathing unaided

NOTTINGHAM, England (R) — The world's tiniest baby born two months premature and only six inches (15 cm) long — is now able to breathe on his own, British doctors said. Tyler Davidson, who weighed in at just 11 ounces (312 grammes) when he was born in the central English city of Nottingham with twin brother Steven last week, is still being kept in an incubator but has been taken off a breathing machine. Television pictures have shown that Tyler, whose eyes are still closed, can be held in the palm of his father's hand. Steven weighed in at just over two pounds (one kg). A spokesman for the Guinness Book of Records confirmed that Tyler was the world's lightest known living baby. The record book measures weight rather than size.